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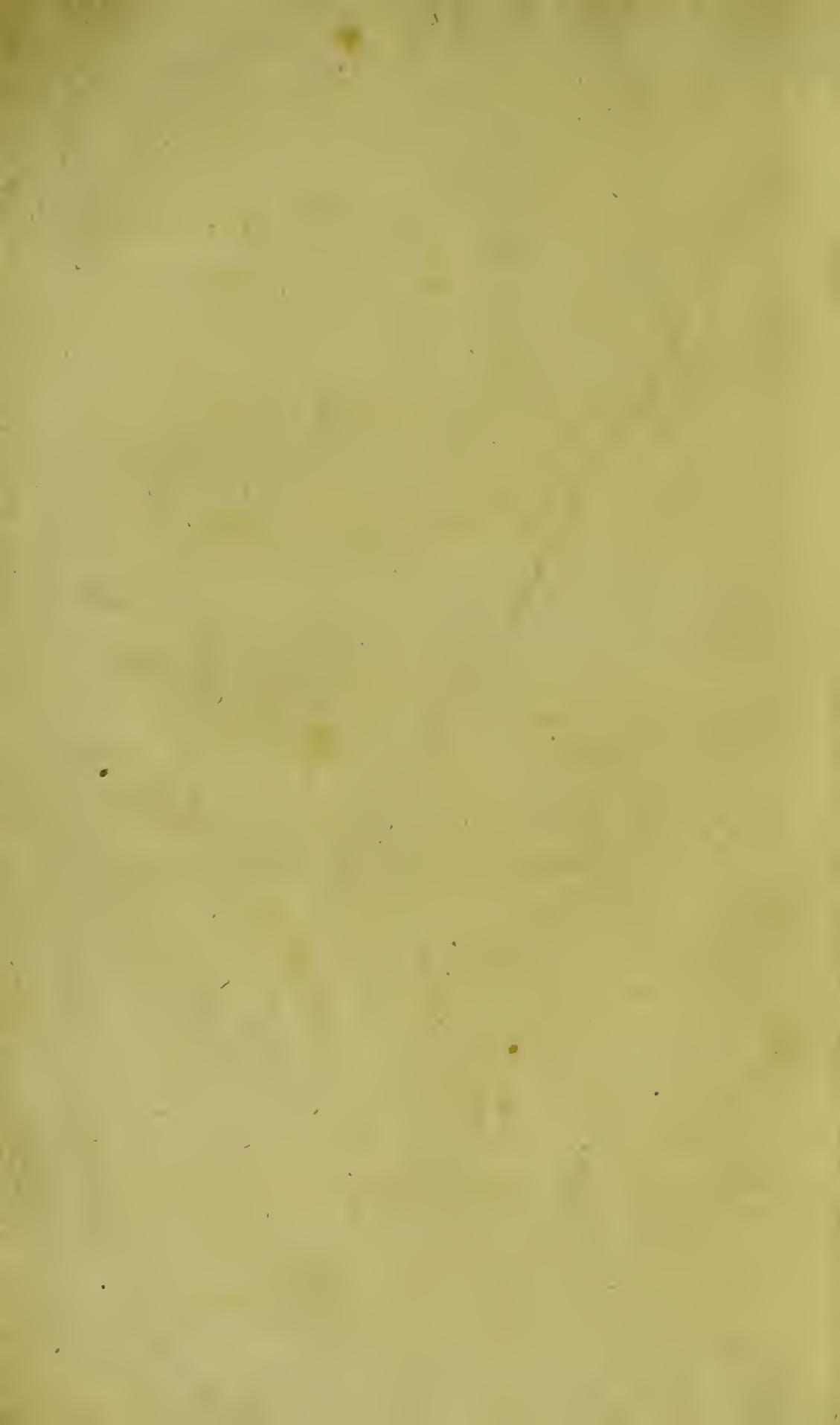
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THE MOST
COGENT REASONS
WHY
ASTRINGENT INJECTIONS, CAUSTIC BOUGIES,
AND
VIOLENT SALIVATIONS,
SHOULD BE
BANISHED FOR EVER FROM PRACTICE;
WITH
THE MILDEST METHODS
OF
SAFELY TREATING EVERY SPECIES
OF
VENEREAL INFECTION, STRICTURES OF THE URETHRA,
&c.
AND
Correcting Mischiefs arising from Caustic Bougies.

BY WILLIAM ROWLEY, M. D.

MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS IN LONDON; PHYSICIAN TO THE ST. MARY-LE-BONE INFIRMARY; AND AUTHOR OF SCHOLA MEDICINÆ UNIVERSALIS NOVA, THE RATIONAL PRACTICE OF PHYSIC, &c. &c.

— Hoc tempore
Obsequium amicos, veritas odium parit. TERENCE.
In these times, servile flattery procures friends; but truth, hatred.

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Little Queen Street, Holborn,

INTRODUCTION.

TO freely examine and correct past and present errors, and to prevent, if possible, future delusion in the treatment of venereal complaints, has the subsequent Work been written. A discordance of opinion long prevailed amongst practitioners of the first eminence in Europe concerning powerful salivations. Astruc and Boerhaave were its advocates, and most of the superintendants of the principal hospitals in France, Italy, Germany, Holland, &c. implicitly adhered to the doctrine; though many of the same surgeons, in their private practice, were less violent in the administration of mercury, and yet effectually cured the generality of patients *.

The irregularities in diet of the inferior classes of people, their exposure to the inclemency of the weather, and various irrational conduct, have been produced as a plea for continuing the strong salivating modes, to prevent disappointment. The reasons are forcible; but yet the condition of the afflicted indigent may be meliorated; *est modus in rebus*. The following production inculcates milder modes of treatment, with numerous prescriptions, in some respects different from any suggested, and severely arraigns the hazardous practices of using astringent injections, or omitting the administration of mild mercurials, in the fresh-contracted venereal poison, when situated in the urethra. Such styptic applications, and irrational omissions, have been irrefutably proved to be productive of the confirmed *lues*,

* In some places on the Continent, within these last forty years, many surgeons and physicians have entirely rejected powerful salivations. To their improved and successful practice I have been an eye-witness.

and of some of the most afflicting complaints man can suffer, namely, dreadful obstructions in the evacuation of urine, *sooner or later* in life. Extracts from the writings of the most learned practitioners, that ever appeared in the world, are produced, to the number of *forty*, many of whom have reprobated, in the strongest terms, the enterprising and injurious treatment; a treatment which has been the actual source of numerous bougie cases, so highly distressing and difficult of cure *.

An existing evil is rarely cured by an evil of greater magnitude.—Caustic bougies, burning the acutely sensible urinary canal, have not, in general, answered the intentions of the practitioners, who have lately revived or adopted the cruel application; but, on the contrary, as might have been foreseen, have caused, in too many instances, irreparable mischief. The method is irrational in

* I was consulted by a married gentleman within these few days, for whom an *astringent* injection was prescribed by a respectable surgeon, to speedily cure a clap; a contraction of the neck of the bladder followed its use, and a dreadfully painful inflammation and suppression of urine, and other consequences similar to the case, page 129. After much misery, blood issued, which the artist pretended was a happy circumstance, for it would remove the inflammation and stricture. The same artful pretext has been used by the *urethral causticators* when large bleedings have happened. What! are inflammations in those tender parts to be rashly produced, that *hæmorrhage* may remove the mischiefs of bad practice? In the foregoing case, half an ounce of *saccharum saturni* was ordered to be dissolved in eight ounces of distilled water—half an ounce of what is called *ceruffa acetata*! Ought not a medical Board of Control to be instituted, to examine and restrain such frightfully dangerous prescriptions? The parties do not seem to know the difference between the living and dead penis; nor that the urethra will scarcely bear one grain of corrosive sublimate, or eight grains of vitriolum album, to eight ounces of water. The urethra is nearly as sensible as the eye; which Plenck, Haller, and others have proved. I have the prescription, and many others similar, in my possession, or I could not have supposed such practice possible. The life of the above patient will be saved; but he may long feel the effects of the rash treatment.

principle, and often destructive in consequences. This may be easily accounted for, by those, who will accurately reflect on the membranous structure of the urinary canal, *corpus spongiosum, et corpora cavernosa penis*; the pendulous, relaxed and shortened, or the erect and extended state of the *membrum virile*; the exquisite sensibility and functions of all the procreative and adjacent parts, their nervous sympathy, that cicatrices from burns commonly leave a contraction, &c. &c. Anatomy, physiology, pathology, dissections *post mortem*, experience and clear conclusive reasoning, all militate against the violent remedies adopted *.

The application of the caustic is proved not to have originated with the late celebrated Mr. John Hunter; but with others, at different periods, for above two centuries; and, they have always been condemned by skill and science. The proofs are evident, by quotations from the writings of many, with the deleterious effects of the practice, as a warning to future adventurous causticators !

The mildest and most successful plans of treatment are next produced, for cases of *urethral stricture*, with the composition of the celebrated bougies of M. Daran, in the words of the author; to enable every humane surgeon to relinquish the hazardous caustic practice, in favour of the communicated modes, in which there is neither risk, danger, nor fatality !

In *Schola Medicinæ Universalis Nova* † the anatomy,
physiology,

* How can any man, conversant in practice, rationally expect that excoriation, or ulcer produced by the fiery caustic, should be more easily cured, or less liable to contraction or callosity than from any other cause? What magic charm can make the caustic act only on the disease causing the impediment? Anatomical facts after death prove the contrary; for frightful and fatal devastation of parts, never intended to have been injured, has been perceived, when too late to be remedied.

† *Schola Medicinæ Universalis Nova*; continens Historiam Medicinæ,
Anatomiam,

physiology, and pathology of each particular part are exhibited in an entirely new and compendious view, to abridge medical studies; the treatises on female nervous, putrid diseases, eye, gout, &c. &c. in the Rational Practice of Physic ||, are founded on deductions from anatomical facts and successful cures; in the whole of which, unproved assertions are excluded, and little admitted, except absolute truths. The same sentiments pervade the whole of the present performance. Not only this treatise, but the other more elaborate works are levelled against all hypothesis unsupported by the most determined and successful cure of diseases. The flights of a warm imagination may please, attract, and delude credulous minds; but they have always produced mischief in the art of medicine, and frequently destruction to society.

The different subjects abound with numerous reflections, observations, and sentiments, which may be of use to all junior practitioners, who are disposed to receive instruction from those skilful seniors and predecessors, whose long experience, ripened judgment, learning, and integrity, have enabled them to warn the unwary, and to inculcate the safest modes of treating various diseases.

The art of physic is not narrow and contracted; nor is it to be founded on a few jejune principles, as some have pretended; it is copious and extensive, includes almost every branch of science, and all the innumerable varieties to be found in human nature. A learned, a very learned education in the art, therefore, is strenuously recommended, in direct contradiction to those narrow precepts, that have

Anatomiam, Physiologiam atque Pathologiam specialem, cum 68 Tabulis æneis. Auctore Gulielmo Rowley, M. D. Universitatis Oxon. Colleg. Regal. Medicorum Londinensis, &c. &c.—Newbery. A work of twenty-six years labour and study, in two quarto Latin volumes.

|| The Rational Practice of Physic, in four volumes octavo, published by Newbery, and all booksellers.

lately

lately bewildered the intellectuals, without informing or satisfying the judgment. It is proved, that a knowledge in the art of medicine is as useful in surgery, and particularly in treating venereal complaints, as the most skilful modes of performing manual operations.

Many professional truths, expressed with asperity of language, will appear in different parts of the work; in which, however, no personal offence is intended. It is the age of insane projects and poisonous experiments, and the augmenting evils ought to be spiritedly opposed. It is enough to excite the most lively indignation in the breast of every experienced medical observer, possessing sensibility, to see human beings become the devoted victims to wanton projects, unnecessary barbarity, and sometimes, to the idle, visionary conceits of youthful inexperience, pride, and obstinacy!

May the prayer of the immortal poet, in future, ever be uppermost, and pervade the mind of all professors and practisers in the humane art of medicine:

“TEACH ME TO FEEL ANOTHER’S WOE!”

It may be reasonably asked, what claim has the present author to attention? What right has any individual to censure errors, and to dictate to the faculty the indispensable duties they owe to society? None! except a warm affection and regard for the honour of the healing art, an impulsive zeal to alleviate human sufferings, and abundant opportunities in many parts of the world, besides Great Britain, of observing the most extensive practice, in all branches of medicine for above forty years; a constant practice, that, perhaps, few individuals ever enjoyed for so long a period *.

As

* After being ten years in the unconfined and diligent study and practice of anatomy, surgery, physic, &c. in many parts of the world; in 1766 I settled in London, and, in imitation of many excellent practitioners of that day,

As to right, every professional individual has an undoubted right to detect, expose, and remove, if possible, all errors and dangerous treatment from the art, especially if, at the same time, milder and more successful modes be communicated. How far these intentions have been accomplished, in the former works, or on the present occasion, must be left to the consideration of the learned and candid; or perhaps to futurity, when the author, the promoters and abettors of the censured practices, and the illiberal private opposers of interesting public truths, shall be no more!

Saville Row, St. James's,

March 24, 1800.

day, opened my house without any restriction for giving professional assistance to all the poor who applied, for about twenty-two years. Some thousands were relieved annually. About twelve years ago I relinquished this practice; but not before I caught a putrid fever that had nearly proved fatal. Near twelve years I have been physician to that excellent institution the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary; where are seen more patients, in every disorder incident to the human body, of all ages, sexes, &c. than at any single hospital in London. How that place is conducted, the profession well know. It is, therefore, not on slight grounds, nor on trifling information, that such freedom is used in differing from many other practitioners, of perhaps less experience. It is not on the plea of very old age, but on the plea of extensive observation and unremitting application to practical facts, that the present doctrines are promulgated; for it is possible for a physician to grow old without the benefit of experience, if his practice and opportunities be contracted, or if his mind be biased with prejudices, which neither reason, reflection, nor ill success in practice, can eradicate.

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ON THE

ORIGIN OF THE VENEREAL DISEASE,

CHANGE OF CONSTITUTIONS AND DISORDERS SINCE ITS APPEARANCE, AND ITS COMBINATION WITH THE SEA SCURVY, AND SCROFULA, OR KING'S EVIL.

TWO discoveries of great importance to the commercial world, the use of the magnet in directing the mariner's compass, and the transatlantic regions of America, were succeeded by two evils of great magnitude, the *sea scurvy* and the *venereal disease**. These disorders singly, or combined; and other physical effects of extensive commerce, have prevailed, in a certain degree, through most parts of Europe, changed the face of many diseases, as described and cured by the ancients †, and have given rise to a more extensive use of mineral remedies ‡.

The venereal disease appeared, originally, in Europe soon after the return of Christopher Columbus from the discovery of America, about the year 1493.

* The *land scurvy* had been seen anciently in camps, and mentioned even by *Pliny* and others; but this, though similar in many symptoms, was not what we now strictly call the *sea scurvy*, which arises from long sea voyages, salt provisions, &c. &c. Inflammatory diseases are less, low nervous, more frequent.

† To those diseases may be added, that chronic complaint of the lymphatic or absorbent vessels and glands, called the *scrofula* or *king's evil*; which, though not a modern affection, yet has been more frequent since the *venereal virus* has so universally prevailed, and since the small-pox has been communicated by inoculation, without regarding the subject, or being particularly acquainted with the constitution, from which the matter of infection was taken. Whoever reflects on the venereal infection being conveyed to the constitution by the absorbent system, and sees that the virus often attacks the lymphatic glands in the groin, axilla, and other parts, will easily conceive that the sea scurvy, scrofula, and venereal disease, in the same constitution, must make sad havoc, and impede the cure of venereal symptoms; these circumstances I have frequently seen very embarrassing to the most skilful practitioners.

‡ As mercury, antimony, chalybeates, vitriolites, &c.

The disorder is communicated from infected persons to others untainted, in various modes; but principally by the commerce of the sexes during the act of coition.

DESCRIPTION AND DREADFUL CONSEQUENCES TO THE SUFFERERS.

On the first appearance of this horrid disorder in Europe the physicians, as usual on all similar occasions, entered into violent disputes concerning its nature, analogy to other morbid affections, and classification. Surprised at the desolating effects of this novel destroyer of human tranquillity and pleasure, this alarming curb to the free enjoyment of sensual gratification, the physicians and the unfortunate victims to its cruel ravages were thrown into the utmost consternation, dismay, and misery. The venereal infection was considered with so much abhorrence and detestation by society, so disgraceful to human decency and character, that thousands perished through concealment, and, perhaps, millions by the affection itself, before adequate remedies were invented, or applied sufficiently powerful to repel the invading and ravaging enemy*. The unfortunate sufferers were frequently abandoned to their wretched fate, the recital of whose pressing and various afflictions would strike sensibility and humanity with horror, and fill the world with tragic scenes, far above the sublimest pathos of all poetic fiction. Numbers were cut down in the prime of life, others lingered through inexpressible woe and misery, were deserted by their nearest relatives and the rest of mankind†. No

balm

* For particular accounts and descriptions see Laurentius Frisius, 1494; Jacob. Catineus de Morbo Gallico, 1494. *Exortus est* (says this author) in *Italia monstrosus morbus, nullis ante seculis visus totoque orbe terrarum incognitus.*

Nic. Leonicenus. *Novam hanc luem nunquam a veteribus visam; et ideo a nullo medico vel Graeco vel Arabe inter alia morborum genera, tactam.* See likewise Prosp. Borgarutius, who says, *Partes obscene afficiuntur, hoc est virga, glans, preputium, coles, cunnus, anus, primos aggressus patientur; deinde sensim in omne corpus, virus perreptat, stetique.* The disorder has continued in a similar manner to this very day.

† The period when the venereal disease was known in Europe is well established by the act of the parliament of *Paris*, dated 6th March 1496; in which all the poxed subjects were ordered to quit the city of *Paris*, *under pain of death, or capital punishment.* Because, says the preamble, for two years has been spreading

balm of comfort was afforded to many wretched objects of venereal contagion ; they were stigmatized with the bitterest reproach ; without a sympathizing friend to close their eyes, they died in obscurity, unpitied. Is it possible to conceive a greater accumulation of human affliction ?

MERCURY ITS ONLY TRUE SPECIFIC.

In the course of many years of horrid misery, violent disputation, and industrious investigation, a most important discovery checked the destructive progress of the venereal disease ; this was the grand specific MERCURY. Without the use of this valuable and generous mineral, miserable must have continued the state of man ; for vast regions must have been partially depopulated, and many of the remaining human beings might have become the devoted victims to painful apprehension, disease, and misery *. There are few of the male sex, especially in large cities, who escape this common infection, at one time of life or other. Millions, perhaps myriads, of lives have been preserved by the application of MERCURY, and many have perished from the illiberal opposition to its salutary use ; for, like all other laudable inventions, it was violently opposed and rejected by many eminent practitioners on its first introduction. Even now, its application is forbid by some novices in the art, more attached to speculations than sound and successful practice ; in cases too, that require its prompt and excellent assistance. Time alone, the clearer of all doubts, will show the shocking effects of their temerity and per-

spreading a contagious disorder, called *grosse verole*, therefore it was fit to make provision, &c. Thus, the disorder had been spreading for two years, since it made its first appearance in 1494, so as to oblige the magistrates to frame laws for the preservation of the people.

* *Laurentius Fries de Morbo Gallico.* Anno Christi 1496 efferbuit quidem morbus atrocissimus, irruens in homines sævo morsu ulcerum glandularum, et durissimorum dolorum, adeo notabili cruciata, quod singuli videntes obslupuerentur : nam incognitus et inquisitus erat hic pestifer morbus, non tantum vulgo, verum etiam doctis, et in sacra medicina eruditis. Ingruit et tam mira tumultuatio in plebe, quod leprosi nobebant habitare cum hoc morbo infectis. *Pauperes, hoc male laborantes, expellebantur ab hominum conversatione, tanquam purulentum cadaver, derelictum à medicis ; et habitabant in arvis et sylvis.*—Here we see the wretched fate of the poor, afflicted with this disorder, discarded by all society ; even lepers avoided the afflicted as though they were a pestilence. The unfortunate were consigned to dens, woods, and mountains ; even their parents and family would have no commerce with them, through fear of infection.

Fevering presumption ; but it is to be lamented, that the unfortunate, credulous patients, who become the dupes to many novel infatuations, are to be the injured sufferers through life*.

Artifice and effrontery may raise a clamour against this **OPTIMUS GENERIS HUMANI CONSERVATOR** ; but it may be depended on, that all the pretensions of curing venereal infections without **MERCURY**, are the seductive delusions of designing men, who, whilst they promulgate their specious deceptions, are secretly dissolving this drug in different compositions. This is no new trick, for it has been the finesse of boasters, pretenders, and deceivers, for above two centuries ; but to see the unsuspicious part of the faculty run full speed after these absurdities, and cruelly suffer their patients to lose that precious time, in the pursuit of crafty deceit or whimsical projects, which might be much better employed in restoring them to perfect health, is sufficient to excite the most lively indignation in the breast of every honourable, experienced, and humane practitioner.

Three ages, almost, have confirmed the great utility of the **ALL-POWERFUL MINERAL**, even while its application was not well comprehended. The improved and refined administration of **MERCURY**, to the great variety of cases that continually occur, was gradually introduced, and particularly reserved for the present and future race. The accurate use of this grand specific is clearly and practically determined, though perhaps not universally known.

FORMER INJUDICIOUS ROUGH PRACTICES.

In recent infections, formerly, violent aloetic and colocynth purges, gamboge, elaterium, hellebore, scammony, &c. were united with calomel, turpith mineral, white or red precipitated mercury, and mercurials to the enormous dose of ten, twenty, or thirty grains *alterno quoque mane*. Incurable gleets and shattered constitutions were among the least ill consequences of these practices. The most violent fluxing salivations were excited by similar remedies, sometimes with, and, at times, without mercurial frictions. The loss of

* It seems, by various authors, that empirics first used *argentum vivum*. I have Nicolaus Leonicenus, Ulricus de Hutton, Petrus Andreas Maiheolo Sinensis, Laurentius Frisius, Joannes Almenar Hispanus, Angelus Bologninus, Nicolaus Poll, Joannes Antonius Bologninus, all in one volume, published at Venice 1535. Poll is dated 1517. *Argentum vivum* was well known in ointments, called, by some, *remedium empiricorum*, and its use opposed.

the teeth, gums, and even, sometimes, the eyes, nose, uvula and palate, accompanied with horrid stinking breath, foul fetid ulcers of the mouth and tongue, throat, &c. incurable diarrhoea, dysentery, or bloody flux, were among the gentlest evils of the rough and coarse modes of treatment usually adopted in the confirmed lues venerea by many eminent practitioners.

FATALITY OF VIOLENT TREATMENT.

Many perished under the torturing courses, or, if they survived, their lives were, frequently, suspended only to breathe the remainder of a wretched existence in continual excruciating torture and dire vexation, until death, welcome death, put a final period to the utmost bounds of accumulated misery.

THE TREATMENT OF VENEREAL AFFECTIONS GRADUALLY IMPROVED.

The rational cure of venereal complaints has been gradually meliorating for half a century; and the united labours of the most celebrated physicians and surgeons in Europe have tended to extinguish the venereal virus, without injury to the constitutions of the sufferers. To this last, important object, have the studies of the skilfullest practitioners been directed, and they have succeeded, as far as cases, climates, and constitutions will admit: thus has their indefatigable industry been rewarded. Mankind reap the benefit. Recourse is not had, now, to many drastic and violent remedies, with which all the professional works of our ancestors abound. Past experience and past misfortune had awakened sensibility, and the art of treating the venereal disease had arrived at a great degree of perfection under the direction of the learned and experienced of the profession. If practitioners had been contented with success, or had judiciously and gradually engrafted any new materials on the old and experienced stock of science, without attempting to destroy the respectable fabric, all would have continued safe and secure: the disorder, annually, would have been rendered milder, and its most ravaging symptoms might in time be extinguished, by avoiding those injudicious projects, lately adopted, that have revived, or laid the foundation of the confirmed lues, or other dreadful evils, which daily make their appearance. Every laudable endeavour to acquire excellence in the healing

art demands the gratefullest acknowledgments of all human society ; but it has ever been the fate of medicine, in every age, to suffer temporary disturbance and injury from the vain, chimerical conceits of infatuated visionists, or daring projectors, who, by plausible arts, obtain the ear and attention of an abused public. When mankind grant unlimited faith to the workers of wonders, they are often brought to sincere and sorrowful repentance.

SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE NOT TO BE CHANGED ON SLIGHT GROUNDS.

It is highly commendable to remedy the defects of an improveable art; but it is equally reprehensible to sap the foundation of all true knowledge established by experience, to make way for the practical application of futile speculations and untried experiments. An ignorance of the surest and safest modes of treating the venereal infection, when recent, or a reliance on many modern pretensions of men who wish to appear singular, are the principal causes of innumerable evils, which daily follow, and render human beings permanently miserable. New projects frequently produce new evils. If the recent infection be judiciously managed, the confirmed pox, with all its dreadful concomitants, would rarely appear; but some, by irrational practices, seem determined to promote the continuance of the *lues venerea confirmata* from age to age, as though it were an hereditary estate entailed on man from generation to generation. This does not appear so much to originate in a desire of promoting so lucrative a branch of the profession, as in a determined and perverse obstinacy in error, and a blind credulity in temporary prejudices. Wisdom suffers self-examination, and corrects mistakes; pride and arrogance never suppose the possibility of defects !

It is much more congenial to every liberal mind to praise extraordinary excellence, or even to acquiesce in the narrow limits of indolent mediocrity, than to have the disagreeable necessity of expressing disapprobation, and severe censure, on dangerous prejudices and fatal presumption. The demon of *hypothesis* struts forth with such gigantic and deadly strides, in various departments of medicine; that it becomes the duty of every honourable man in the profession to assist in crushing the hydra-headed monster. Nothing but the Herculean club of truth can totally vanquish the variegated colours and

wild pretensions of daring innovation ; plausible in appearance, but deleterious in consequences. Morality demands the attempt, but the event must be left to time, reflection, and circumstances. The reasons for this exordium will be amply manifested in the subsequent animadversions, dedicated to humanity, and to the use of the present and rising generation.

ON THE PROPERTIES OF THE VENEREAL VIRUS, AND GENERAL MODES OF REMOVING IT FROM THE HUMAN BODY.

THE specific principles, or particles, of the venereal poison, have eluded all the researches of chemical or physiological industry. The disease is only known to be in the habit by its effects, and its cure by mercury has been acquired by long experience : for no hypothesis, hitherto published, explains, in a satisfactory manner, how mercury extinguishes the venereal infection. The poisonous particles are different from all other contagion, and the affection is *miasma sui generis*. It is extremely subtile and penetrating, for it enters the minutest pores of our body, and, from contact, is conveyed by the lymphatics into the habit. It is acrid and irritating, and has an affinity with oleous and mucal fluids ; from hence it affects, particularly, the muciparous and lymphatic glands. It is neither determined to be acid, alcaline, putrid, nor saline. In the night it rages most, and cannot be destroyed by any other means than mercury. It is not generated spontaneously in the body, but always acquired from previously infected persons. It is communicated by the mother to the foetus before birth, or received by lactation, coition, or by contact, if the skin be chapped or abraded ; by kissing, drinking ; by infected linen or clothes ; touch, or by an infected lancet, &c. *

The effects of venereal poison are, irritation, from whence inflammation, mutation and perversion of parts, causing a puriform efflux, indurations of glands, abscesses, diseases of the periosteum, or lachrymaceous ulcers, &c. &c.

The *miasma* may be absorbed from the part first infected, and

* See the celebrated Van Swieten, Comment. I. v. p. 378.

conveyed into the constitution. The disease may be aptly divided into topic, or local, universal, larvated, and complicated.

The cure requires the removal of the venereal poison, and a reparation of the parts, as much as possible, depravated by its poisonous and devastating powers.

Numerous are the remedies that have been used, applauded, and frequently excluded from their violence of action, or inefficacy; some former celebrated medicines are only applied now as auxiliaries, as *sarsaparilla*, *lignum guaiacum*, *radix chine*; *sassafras*, &c. &c.

Millions of experiments prove that mercury is the only, the best, and safest antidote for venereal infection. The modes of applying mercury are external and internal.

The external methods are by mercurial friction, fumigations of cinnabar, warm baths, composed of aqueous solutions of *hydrargyrus muriatus*, which last few use. The internal are, simple mercury, or mixed, or prepared with acids, &c. The anointing with mercury is divided into two modes of treatment—by *powerful salivation*, or by *extinction* of the disease without salivation, or with a very slight ptyalism; warm baths to the number of thirty, with light frictions every other, or every third day; and by aperients, occasionally prescribed, to prevent the sore mouth, &c. This last plan suits best the south of France, Italy, and warmer climates; but is not so successful in England, and much less so in very cold countries.

Strong fluxing salivations I have always thought unnecessary, except in very strong robust habits, not easily moved, and very particular cases; they are too violent, often injurious through life to delicate habits; and as frequently unsuccessful, as several other modes, in cases difficult of cure.

The *extinction* of the disease by light frictions, and by giving internally very *small doses* of mercurials at proper distances, with or without antimonials, is perhaps the best mode of treating the *lues venerea confirmata*. It may be slow, but it is gentle, and fully as certain, or perhaps more certain in curing than any methods yet devised, which my own practice, in thousands of cases, has fully confirmed. It is the art of giving mercurials as *alteratives*, not as *evacuants*, by which no violent commotion is excited in the body. The mild modes of treatment adopted will be fully explained in the subsequent pages: they differ, in some respects, from all others yet practised, and they

leave the constitution, after the cure, less injured by the course than is usually experienced in the more rough salivating methods.

Different practitioners pursue the mode of cure to which they have been most accustomed; those, who think no other practice effectual, except salivations excited by frictions, censure the methods by alteratives; those, who pursue the middle course, or depend on mercurials and antimonials as alteratives, will equally reprobate violent distressing salivations, so much in vogue, in most of the hospitals in Europe.

Both methods, and likewise others, perfectly cure the disease; but every method has failed and will fail, in some few instances, which experienced and candid practitioners readily acknowledge. In some cases, and in particular constitutions, the *venereal virus* attaches itself so firmly, that it is disunited, or extinguished, with the greatest difficulty. Repeated salivations have been frequently known to fail; and it may be asserted with truth, that every purpose of salivation may be effected, without that destroyer of teeth, gums, and producer of ulcerations of the mouth, throat, &c. by the mild alternative courses adopted and recommended in this treatise*.

Different are the preparations of mercury, but few, except those advised, can be given a sufficient length of time to conquer the disease, and effectuate a perfect cure, without injuring the stomach, intestines, and debilitating the constitution. Many have destroyed the tone of the stomach and laid the foundation of chronic complaints, by a long continuance of calomel, in large doses, tur-

* Mankind, who know not the difficulties medicine has to encounter in some instances of venereal infection, should be very cautious how they censure practitioners in medicine, for not affording that relief which they expect, and which it must be the wish of every honourable physician or surgeon to accomplish. Every one practises to the best of his judgment; but every man, as in other professions, cannot be equally experienced and skilful. The most learned and skilful may fail in some cases, owing to the perverseness of the disease, and some peculiarity or morbid affection in the patient's constitution, who may not be able to bear the most decided and proper remedies. In some of these instances the utmost bounds of medical skill are requisite to perceive constitutions, indications, and contra-indications, and judiciously to accommodate the practice to all the peculiarities of the case, for which it is impossible to give written rules, as they must depend on the discernment and well-established experience of the practitioner.

bith mineral, &c. &c. yet these preparations may be safely given in very small doses, if well prepared.

In preparing for the alterative course, bleeding and an aperient are first necessary: the diet should be light and innocent, not fat nor acid, and the drink only *decoctum sarsaparillæ*, with or without *milk*, if the patient be plethoric, and of an inflammatory habit; if of a pale, frigid, lax constitution, *lignum guaiacum*, or *sassafras*, may be added, or used alone in decoctions, &c. Wine, conviviality, and excesses of every kind, should be avoided.

The air should be mild, for cold does irreparable mischief during the course. A north or north-east wind is very inimical to the cure of *lues venerea*. *Heat*, on the contrary, relaxes. A medium should be observed. Flannel or calico should be worn next the skin. If the mouth become heated or sore, or the face swell, the mercurial is to be suspended for a few days, and an aperient given.

Tepid *baths* are useful in some cases, especially where the skin is dry and the pores closed; but after bathing, cold is to be avoided.

If diarrhœa or dysentery happen, astringents and opiates are to be prescribed according to circumstances; if gangrene appear, bark, vitriolic acids, wine, &c. are necessary.

These are the general rules of practice to be observed in the venereal disease; the brief description and management of all the different species shall follow in succession.

AFFECTIONS, &c.

URETHRITIS VENEREA.

THE URETHRITIS VENEREA is an inflammation of the urethra, arising from recent venereal infection, with a discharge of morbid fluid from the urethra.

It is neither a discharge of semen, which its former name *gonorrhœa* * implies, nor of purulent pus from an ulcer, as dissections prove; but serum from the mouths of irritated exhalent arteries, and a morbid, yellow, or greenish-coloured mucus, from the muciparous glands, irritated and diseased by the venereal virus †.

It

REMEDIES and TREATMENT.

THERE are two methods of treating urethritis venerea: the one speedy, by astringent drying injections, but hazardous and frequently dangerous in its consequences; the other slower, by internal medicines, but certain, safe, and secure from all future evils.

In the commencement of the disorder, if the mercurial mucilaginous injection be skilfully applied, the cure is often accomplished in a few days, with very little medicine; but after that early period all injections may be hazardous.

By this mode of cure it frequently happens

* The word *gonorrhœa* is an improper name, and conveys no just nor adequate idea of the disease: for *γόνη* means semen, or the seed, and *ῥέω* to flow; therefore the word *gonorrhœa* means nothing but a discharge or efflux of the semen or seed. The virulent, or venereal *gonorrhœa*, as it has been injudiciously called, is an increased discharge from the minute vessels and mucal glands of the urethra, tainted with the venomous venereal infection. Can any thing in nature be more dissimilar than an involuntary efflux of semen and the discharge and inflammation created by venereal infection? This dissimilarity demands a change of *nomen*, or name, to convey a precise idea of the disorder here treated; and the present name is more rational than the former.

† Some have boldly asserted that the venereal discharge from the urethra was quite *innocent* and *harmless*, that the cure only required common antiphlogistic remedies, as other simple inflammations, &c. It is so *innocent*, that it is commonly caught from *impure persons*, already infected; and it is so *harmless*, that most infected persons communicate the poison to others not infected, by the act of coition. It is not a simple inflammation, but an inflammation and increased glandular secretion compounded with the *venereal virus*. Is there not a specific difference between inflammation from cold, &c. and inflammation from venereal poison? This supposed innocence and simplicity of venereal inflammation has ruined the peace of many families: for husbands, on this innocent simple supposition, have infected their wives or favourites, and females their husbands or friends, &c. Such are the effects of whimsical false conceits when admitted into the practice of medicine. Nothing in nature can be more dissimilar than inflammation from venereal virus and inflammation from other causes.

Affections, &c.

It is acquired generally by the act of coition with an infected woman.

The *virus* of *urethritis venerea* should not be distinguished from *venereal virus*, according to the celebrated *Tode*; for such distinction and its consequent injudicious treatment have been productive of great calamities to human beings. It is distinguishable from a simple *gleet*, and from an involuntary emission of *semen*, by the violence of its symptoms and its power of infecting a non-infected female.

The seat of the disorder is, chiefly, in *lacunis Morgagnianis* of the urethra.

In respect to its nature, it is *simple*, when recent and without any other disorder: *inveterate*, when it remains a long time: *complicated*, when combined with ulcers of the penis, &c. in which case the *virus* is more easily absorbed and conveyed to the habit, than where no venereal ulcers exist.

The Symptoms or Signs.

I. The first sign or symptom is a titillation, or sensation of itching in the urethra.

II. A

thartic

* I have had reason, in innumerable instances, to suppose, that the recent poisonous particles of the infection have been immediately destroyed in the urethra, by means of the specific thus administered. A great many, with *Tode*, have pretended to believe, that the *virus* in the urethra does not require any *mercurials*; I have known numerous instances of confirmed poxes and other calamities succeeding this unfounded supposition, or belief, when applied to practice. It is likewise one of the decoying and leading principles of empirics, or quacks, to assert that they perform all their *wonderful* cures without mercury, in their miracle-working compositions; these artful stratagems succeed with persons ignorant of our profession; but all honest physicians not only acknowledge the utility of the specific, but are happy, beyond expression, in the permanent success of a judicious and mild mercurial practice.

Remedies and Treatment.

happens that patients never experience the symptoms common to subsequent stages*.

If the disease should have been neglected on its first appearance, a judicious treatment of membranous and mucal glandular inflammation, arising from *venereal poison*, should be adopted: for on this last idea depends the safest cure and future security of the patient.

In the third and fourth stages of the *urethritis venerea*, the grand objects of cure are:

I. To diminish inflammation by depleting the vessels. II. To render the urine passing through the urethra milder, by changing the particles of urine, and rendering the periods of its evacuation more *distant*; thus occasioning the pain and scalding to be less frequent.

By administering the grand specific *MERCURY*, in its simplest form, in very small doses, as an *alterative*, at the proper season, after the first inflammatory symptoms have subsided.

Urethral inflammation is diminished, in full habits, by bleeding, by nitrous, or by various neutral or ca-

Affections, &c.

II. A very thin or serous running succeeds, which stains the linen, leaving, when dry, a dark-coloured margin: this is, generally, a characteristic of the commencing stage of the disorder. It seems to arise from irritation and increased action of the exhalent arteries, stimulated to augmented excretion by the venereal poison.

III. The discharge becomes rather thicker, increases in quantity, the urethral external orifice swells, looks red, is heated and gapes, and an acute smarting pain is felt in voiding urine, like the pricking of pins or needles, especially after evacuation, called *ardor urinæ*, or scalding of water.

The mucal glands are now stimulated to an increased diseased action, and pour forth abundance of purulent mucus, contaminated with the venereal infection.

IV. The discharge, or running, soon becomes more purulent, has a yellowish, or greenish colour; the heat, inflammation, and pricking pains increase, and are often accompanied with a painful nocturnal erection, called *chordée*.

Remedies and Treatment.

thartic salts, with or without manna, rhubarb, infusions of senna, &c.

The particles of urine are rendered less irritating by avoiding all salted food and salts, by mucilaginous and emollient, demulcent and farinaceous drinks, refrigerant emulsions, taken in small quantities; for copious draughts of any liquids may distend the vessels and increase urinary secretion, occasion a more frequent discharge of urine, and consequently augment urethral irritation *.

The most simple forms of exhibiting mercury are, by the union of *hydrargyrus purificatus* with mucilaginous, or other substances: these are applicable, with or without camphor, to all delicate, nervous, female, or debilitated habits.

To the robust and less irritable the *mercurius dulcis, sexies vel decies sublimatus, et aqua multoties lotus*, from half a grain to one or two grains, formed into a pill, with a grain of sugar and mucilage of gum arabic, is to be given every night, or night and morning; whilst emollient, demulcent, mucilaginous remedies, and cooling aperients, are exhibited †.

These,

The

* These modes of treatment, though they may appear diametrically opposite to the *Bœrhaavian* plan of *diluting*, as it is called, have yet been attended with the most decided success; and whoever would know more of these principles may consult the third volume of my *Rational Practice of Physic*, containing the modes of treating all diseases of the eyes, &c. but particularly that chapter on inflammation of the eyes called *ophthalmia, species chemosis, &c. &c.* where the rationale of the *non-diluting* practice is amply considered, on self-evident principles. In the introduction this subject is likewise discussed.

† The *mercurius dulcis, sexies vel decies sublimatus, præparatus et lotus*, which I formerly recommended under the name of *aquila alba*, is, next to *pil. hydrarg.* one

of

Affections, &c.

These, conjointly, may be denominated the *purulent stage* of recent venereal infection.

All the recited symptoms are more or less violent, continue for longer or shorter periods, according to seasons of the year, climate, age, sex, and constitutions.

V. As the inflammatory symptoms and painful sensations diminish, the greenish or yellow discharge disappears, the heat in voiding urine ceases, and the matter issuing through the urethra becomes gradually more viscid and white, less in quantity, daily attended with a slight sensation of itching in the urethra, and, finally, ceases to

flow.

of the mildest mercurials, when its particles are divided by *saccharum album*, and formed into pills with mucilage of gum arabic. This mercurial, ad gr. $\frac{1}{2}$ vel gr. j. rarely affects the stomach or intestinal canal, and never requires opium, as the common calomel does, to counteract its irritating qualities. Whether directing the calomel to be only three times sublimed may have given a greater latitude to those ingenious artists, the laboratory chemists (who sometimes consider the cheapest mode of preparing medicines, without any regard to the consequences to patients), to sophisticate, or ill prepare that medicine; is a question worthy of attention.

For an explanation of the remedies recommended, and particularly for the use of junior practitioners, *formulae* of prescriptions are added, as a general plan of cure; which, however, should be altered according to circumstances of cases, constitutions, ages, sexes, &c.; for the success of all medicine must ever depend on the discrimination and judgment of the practitioner. The most excellent remedies, improperly applied, do mischief.

Above thirty years ago, when I had an extensive practice in the art of surgery, I published a short tract on the *recent venereal infection*, and was one of the first who reprobated in the strongest terms, the use of violent, drastic, *aloetic* and *coccygynia purges*, large doses of *calomel*, and all rough practices, as likewise *astringent injections*, which I had then seen do irreparable mischief. I had, at that time, acquired as many opportunities as most practitioners in Europe for obtaining facts in venereal affections, not only in England, but in most parts of the continent, and whilst in his Majesty's service at *Belleisle*, 1761, 1762, and 1763; the *Havannah*, most of the West India islands, America, &c. Very extensive observations have fully confirmed and established the truth of those former doctrines, in many hundreds of cases.

Remedies and Treatment.

The venereal poison is much more easily attacked and defeated when recent in the urethra, glans penis, &c. than when, by fatal omissions in this early period, it is suffered to ravage at large in the constitution, which often happens from the surgeon and patient thinking too lightly of fresh-contracted venereal infection, and supposing it cured when the symptoms have only been mitigated.

Great cleanliness is necessary to prevent repeated mischief from the venereal venom, during the virulent stage of the urethral discharge; for fresh infection has been repeatedly renewed by suffering the infectious

run-

Affections, &c.

now. This is the last and *healing* stage, when the cure has been skilfully managed.

**PROGNOSTIC, OR CONSEQUENCES
OF THE SYMPTOMS OF URE-
THRITIS VENEREA.**

I. According to the violence of the symptoms, and their judicious or injudicious treatment, these stages of the disorder sooner or later terminate.

II. The matter, if not interrupted by *astringent injections* and other mal-practices, changes to a light yellow, and afterwards to a white colour, growing daily thicker, as the irritation and discharge diminish, and as the *venereal virus*, which gave cause to all the symptoms, is extinguished: then all appearances gradually vanish; and thus the cure, if properly conducted, is permanently completed.

III. The cure of the *urethritis venerea* likewise depends much upon the length of time the infection may have been received.

IV. The mildness or virulence of the symptoms.

V. The*Remedies and Treatment.*

running to remain long on the linen, in one situation*.

To the strongest constitutions, and athletic habits, to soldiers and sailors, not easily moved by light remedies, calomel, as prepared according to the present *Pharmacopœia*, may be given in larger doses, with more active cathartics. In the painful erection of the penis, called *chordée*, *venæsection* is sometimes necessary, and anodyne, emollient, and nitrous *peniluvia*. Internally, solution of nitre in almond emulsion, cathartics, camphor in large doses, with opium, &c. If much ill-coloured purulent matter issue, then *solutio antimonialis mercurialis*, instead of other mercurials, may be administered, until the purulency of the matter be diminished in quantity, and changed in quality, and the *chordée* no longer molest or cause nocturnal quietude. In long-continued purulency, the cure is greatly facilitated by *solutio antimonialis mercurialis*, or by *hydrargyrus muriatus* in the eighth of a grain three times a-day, dissolved and diluted.

Whilst

* It should be observed, that I am always speaking as an accurate observer, and an experienced practical physician, not as an idle speculator; from a mind constantly occupied, above forty years, in the most extensive duties of the profession. Innocent and harmless as the venereal running has been pronounced to be, numbers have reinfected themselves by suffering their penis to remain soaking in their own envenomed venereal matter, issuing from the urethra. This has long preserved the inflammatory and purulent symptoms, and has given reason to the surgeon to suppose the patient had received a fresh infection. If the venereal virus should be absorbed, a confirmed pox may be the consequence, many years after the supposed cure. The matter is proved to be infectious by its easy communication by coition, and by a bougie smeared with the running, and applied to another urethra. In *Schola Medicinæ* there is a case of a young nobleman who poxed himself by only examining the running, to see if it roped, pressing the penis between his finger and thumb, having received a previous puncture on the finger, by which the infection was communicated.

Affections, &c.

V. The age, sex, and general habit of the person infected.

VI. The season of the year; for it is cured with greater facility in warm than in cold weather.

VII. If the disorder be not judiciously treated in the commencement, or during its progress, on which greatly depends the confirmed cure of recent venereal infection; or if patients be obstinate and negligent, and do not avoid cold, excesses in diet, or violent exercises, the present and future consequences may be very serious: amongst the former are, swelled testicles, buboës, inflammation of the prostate gland, abscesses in perinæo, and fistula in ano, long-continued, and sometimes incurable *gleets*, &c. &c. Amongst the latter, from the absorption of the venereal poison; by means of the lymphatic or absorbent system, the constitution becomes contaminated, very often, when neither physician nor patient suspect the evil; the venereal poison lies dormant for months, or years, and then shows itself in unequivocal symptoms, as ulcers in the throat, nose, and palate; venereal blotches in different parts of the body; in swelling and affection of the *periosteum* and *bones*, *dreadful nightly pains* in the parts, &c. caries, or *rotteness* of bones; loss of uvula, nose, palate, genital and other parts. Such are the prognostics, if the patients be inattentive to skilful advice when the disease is recent; and such may be the dreadful effects of injudicious treatment by *astringent injections*, or by depending on any method of cure without *mercury*.

VIII. A

Remedies and Treatment.

Whilst the purulent discharge continues, the same remedies are expedient, and should be repeated until the matter issuing from the urethra become white, viscid, or tenacious, and small in quantity: in this last, or *healing stage* of the disease, little medicine is necessary, since the powers of nature restore the parts to their pristine state. The abraded surface of the lining membrane of the urethra is healed, a bland mucus issues from the mucal glands, defending the passage from the sharpness of urine, and slight tickling sensation is felt in the urethra. If gleet remain, recourse may be had to terebinthinate balsams, tonics, cold bath, and similar remedies. If injections be applied, which are hazardous, nothing should be used stronger than those given in the formulæ for *gleets*.

Thus the cure is perfectly accomplished, without any apprehension of future ill consequences. If recent infection be thus treated, *strictures* of the urethra, or *confirmed poxes*, with all their train of horrid symptoms, would seldom be experienced.

It must be confessed that these modes of treatment are more tedious than some which have been adopted by many pretenders to *speedy cures*; but with every physician of integrity and skill, the *future security* of the patient should weigh down all other considerations. It is the duty of physic to perfect cures, not merely to please patients at the expence of their future health.

If by accident the mouth should become heated during this light exhibition

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Affections, &c.

VIII. A sudden stoppage of the running, either by *accident* or *art*, is a bad sign; for this discharge is the *natural effort* the disease takes to assist in effecting a cure; it always continues in proportion to the malignity of the disease; it is similar to those mucus evacuations, so essentially beneficial in the cure of catarrh, inflammation of the lungs, &c. which no wise physician would suppress or counteract.

Profluvium mucosum glandis penis; or a discharge from the glans penis, caused by the matter of the *urethritis venerea* insinuating itself between the glans and penis.

Profluvium mucosum innocuum of the same part happens *without venereal infection*, from friction and heat in the act of coition.

Profluvium chronicum urethrale, called gleet, whether from laxity of the vessels, or an ulcer of the urethra.

Profluvium seminis involuntarium arising from debility, or a vice too common to youths.

If patients, dissatisfied with the judicious, safe, and successful modes of practice already described, and which have been firmly established by the most skilful practitioners, are determined to have the discharge checked by astringents, or to have what running may flow suppressed by art, before the infection is entirely removed; it is better, after coolly reasoning on the consequences, and mildly advising them not to persist in so hazardous a treatment, to suffer them to follow their own machinations. *Medicine may advise, but it cannot coerce.* It is possible such unruly patients may receive present consolation by astringent applications to the urethra, and they may meet with some artists ready to gratify their unreasonable desires on such occasions; but what are frequently, if not always the future consequences, either

Remedies and Treatment.

abition of *hydrargyrus*, aperients are to be repeated, and the use of mercury suspended. It is not intended to make the mouth sore, much less to excite salivation in the cure of the *urethritis venerea*, but to extinguish the venereal virus by the gentlest means; by administering smaller doses of mercurials than are usually prescribed, and continuing them for a longer time.

It is cured by the same means as the *urethritis venerea*.

Cured by saturnine lotions and unguents.

In the former, corroborants; in the latter, mercurials, are necessary, and sometimes medicated bougies.

Is cured by tonics, cold bath, and abstaining from the vicious act.

immediate or remote? If strictures do not soon follow in the urethra, and awaken the patient's sensibility to his danger; yet when the expulsive powers of the bladder in advanced life become weakened, and cannot overcome the resistance of the old contraction, formed by drying or desiccative injections, applied to the urethra, then the miserable effects of impeded urinal evacuations are wofully experienced. How many young men likewise have been rendered *impotent* all the remaining parts of their lives, from the impossibility of *ejaculating* the semen in the act of coition, originating in the mal-practice of astringent injections? Thousands of the aged have suffered alarming difficulties in voiding urine, from these irrational sources of juvenile impetuosity; thousands are now suffering from the same causes; and mankind will continue to suffer not only dreadful affections of the urethra, but subsequent confirmed poxes, as long as a vicious complaisance to the irrational desires of patients actuates many of the faculty more than sound judgment and integrity*.

* I remember a physician, who got immense riches, being asked, in company with a few of the profession, to communicate his secret, or to impart by what contrivances he acquired such considerable practice and wealth; for he was known not to be a conjuror as to professional skill. The arch accumulator of riches answered, "I do not pretend to the deepest professional skill, but I have studied how to accommodate my manners to the extravagant absurdities of mankind; I am *all things to all men*, and watch for the weak side of every one; and, in short, I never contradicted a lady in my life. *Go ye, and do likewise.*"

A SHORT VIEW OF THE EXTENSIVE RAVAGES OF THE VENEREAL DISEASE, IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE HUMAN BODY, WILL BE EXEMPLIFIED BY THE SUBSEQUENT ARRANGEMENT; TO WHICH ARE ADDED GENERAL MODES OF TREATMENT.

AFFECTIONS.

DISEASES OF THE PENIS.

URETHRITIS venerea, with running, heat in making water, called *dysuria*, &c.

REMEDIES and TREATMENT.

BY cooling diet, by peniluvia, mucilaginous drinks, emollients and refrigerants, saline purges, and *nitre*, afterwards by mercurials †. If a gleet remain, by tonics, cold bath, &c.

† It has been a singular characteristic in the writings of the learned Edinburgh professor, the late *Doctor Cullen*, and some of his followers, to raise doubts, induce

Affections.

PARTIAL OR TOTAL SUPPRESSION OF URINE, OR ISCHURIA, frequently originating in the hazardous use of astringent injections.

CRYSTALLINE VESICLES, which precede chancres.

TUBERCLES, or small hard swellings on the penis.

ULCERS ON THE GLANS AND PREPUCE, called *chancres*, commonly succeeding vesicles.

ULCERS IN THE URETHRA,
known

Remedies and Treatment.

By discovering and removing various causes, by *medicated bongies*, &c. whether it be caused by enlarged, indurated prostate gland, contractions of the passage, tubercles, callous ulcers, and swellings in the tuba, or from an old cicatrix, from repeated venereal infection.

By removing the vesicles by incision, and, afterwards, dressing the superficial ulcer with precipitate digestive, and promoting a discharge; by mercurials, &c.

To be resolved by mercurial fomentations, and by mercurials, internally.

By mercurial alteratives; as *solutio antimonialis mercurialis*, by mercurial lotions, and digestive unguent; but never by *caustics*, lest the venereal virus be driven into the habit, which has often happened.

By mercurial alteratives internally, by the

induce the profession to enter into useless disputation, and very often on subjects that have been determined by the most accurate observation, and practical facts: this has been detrimental to the art in various instances, which young practitioners should be apprised of. Such is the doubt, whether *NITRE* be beneficial in removing urethral inflammation arising from venereal infection. If the joint testimony of all ages, and of the greatest practical physicians of all countries and times, long before the venereal disease was known in Europe; if the doctrines and observations of the greatest physicians amongst the moderns be admissible, *NITRE* must be admitted one of the most excellent antiphlogistics in the whole catalogue of refrigerants. That great man, Hoffman, wrote an entire treatise on its use. Hippocrates, Celsius, Aræteus, Galen, and all the ancients used this remedy. Boerhaave, Hoffman, and all the modern surgeons of eminence who have written on venereal complaints, have exhibited and recommended *NITRE*, and I have been witness to its great utility for above forty years, both in my own practice and that of my cotemporaries; and I can pronounce it, when joined with the *pulvis è tragacanth. comp.* to be one of the most efficacious remedies used in the cure of the heat of urine, in the gonorrhœa. *Hypothesis* will never overturn this fact; and in proportion as it is used judiciously, according to the state of different stomachs, it must always stand unrivalled as an excellent antiphlogistic in *urethritis venerea*, and in many other cases.

Affections.

known by an urethral discharge of purulent pus.

PARAPHYMOsis, or impossibility to draw forward the prepuce.

PHYMOsis, or impossibility to draw back the prepuce.

INVOLUNTARY ERECTION, or priapism.

INCREASED DESIRE OF VENERY, or satyriasis.

CHORDEE, or painful erection.

IMPOTENCE, from diminished energy in the nervous or muscular powers, or from contracted urethra.

DISEASES OF THE TESTICLES.

These frequently arise from the use of *astringent injections*; from cold, from immoderate exercise.

INFLAMMATION.

INDURATION, OR HARDNESS OF THE TESTICLE, epididymis, and cancer, &c.

Remedies and Treatment.

the solutio penetrans applied to the ulcer by means of a machine, by medicated bougies.

By oiling the part, or by applying simple ointment, then covering the part with a piece of linen, and gently drawing it down, by slight punctures, if there be crystallines; but this cautiously in bad habits, lest *gangrene* ensue.

By fomentations, by saline cathartics, if inflammatory; by mercurials, by mercurial and nitrous penitivia.

By removing the causes of irritation, by camphor joined with opium, and hydrargyric pills, solutio gummosa hydrargyri, by solutio antimonialis mercurialis, and opium, camphor, &c.

By camphor, opium, and by removing evident causes, by cathartics, &c.

By emulsions of camphor; opium, and solutio hydrargyri gummosa, by penitivum of poppy-heads, camphor, &c.

By removing the causes of debility, by increasing muscular power, by bark, zinc, and tonics; if from obstruction in the urethra, in consequence of former *astringent injections*, by medicated bougies, &c.

By repeated venesection, by a quarter of a grain of antimonium tartarifatum and half a grain of calomel, given every six hours; by solutions of nitre, saline cathartics, by fomentations of nitre and water, by a suspending truss, and low diet.

By *unguentum hydrargyri mitius*, with camphor and oil as a liniment, by mercurial and nitrous fomentations and poultices, by pilulæ fortissimæ, mitiores, and pulvis alterans purificans, by solutio antimonialis mercurialis,

Affections.

ULCERS OF THE SCROTUM succeed inflammation, abscess, increased quantities of fluid in the cellular structure, &c.

DISEASES OF THE PROSTATE GLAND.

These most frequently happen from mal-treatment; but particularly by astringent injections.

INFLAMMATION.

This is known by intense pain of the part, difficulty in voiding the urine, or total suppression.

Remedies and Treatment.

mercurialis, by mercury and antimony, nitre, &c. *

By cinnabarine fumigations *bis de die*, by solutio antimonialis mercurialis, solutio hydrargyri gummosa, dressings of hydrargyrum nitratus ruber and some ointment, by pilulæ alterantes; if with flaccid edges and livid in colour, by cort. Peruvianus, vitriolic acid, zincum vitriolatum, and tonics.

Such cases require a speedy and spirited antiphlogistic treatment, or abscesses, and incurable ulcers, follow.

By bleeding, reproducing the running, by a medicated bougie, by antiphlogistics, cooling cathartics, by bathing the perinæum and anus in a warm nitrous bath.

* A gentleman who laboured under a cancerous affection of the testicle, and who had taken that inefficacious drug hemlock, &c. was strenuously advised by a most eminent anatomist, in consultation with the late celebrated and excellent surgeon Mr. *Percival Pott*; to undergo castration, and the patient had consented. Understanding that the operation might put a period to his existence, he was making his will, when a friend, accidentally coming in, recommended him to have my opinion. On examining the case, I found it cancerous, with an enlarged and hardened spermatic chord. Dr. Kennedy, in Great Queen Street, was the gentleman who met me in consultation. I delivered my opinion: 1. That there was no urgent necessity for the operation. 2. That by an alterative mineral course there was some probability of curing the complaint, which had happened in many similar instances. 3. That if the means I wished to recommend failed, yet he might live, like many others, several years, without any great inconvenience from a shrivelled testicle. Dr. Kennedy agreed to the plan of cure proposed, which was to give pilulæ alterantes fortiores ad gr. ij. ter die, and pulvis alterans purificans ad 2ij. after each dose. These large doses the patient bore well, and was perfectly cured in about three months, by perseverance in the remedies, and by the application of unguentum hydrargyri camphoratum. It is fifteen years ago; the gentleman is now living and in excellent health. Thus was a human being snatched from a cruel operation, which might have bereaved the world and his friends of a valuable life.

*Affections.***ABSCESS AND ULCERS.**

This is known by the abscess bursting in the urethra, and discharge of purulent pus, by pain, or by suppuration *in perinæo*, or about the anus.

SCHIRRUS, OR INDURATION.*Remedies and Treatment.*

By mercurials, a proper regimen, terebinthinate remedies, gum olibanum, and, sometimes, by medicated bougies, according to circumstances.

By *pilulæ alterantes mitiores, fortiores, fortissimæ*; by mercurial ointments with camphor applied to the perineum; by fumigations of cinnabar to the same part; by *solutio mercurialis*, and nitre *.

**DISEASES OF THE PERINÆUM
AND ANUS.**

FISTULA OF THE PERINÆUM commonly arises from abscess succeeding *suppressed running*. Sometimes the urine passes through two or three openings: dreadful situation!

By *causticum camphoratum*, opening the external orifice; by the immission of sponge tent, repeatedly and long continued, armed with precipitate digestive; by bougies, or by flexible catheters, to prevent injuries of the cellular structure; by cinnabarine fumigations, camphorated mercurial ointments, and by mercurials internally, and alteratives, as *solutio antimonialis mercurialis*, &c.

* Inoculation of the venereal infection, by means of a bougie, with matter of a person labouring under recent venereal *urethritis*, has been practised in the cure of hardened testicles, by reproducing the suppressed running; but I do not think such practice moral or justifiable.

This has been done and published by *Hirschel*, at Berlin, 1766. A bougie was introduced into the urethra of a man infected with the venereal gonorrhœa (*urethritis venerea*), which remained in the urethra some hours, until the bougie was well covered with matter. Then being withdrawn, it was immediately introduced into the urethra of a man who had suffered under a suppressed gonorrhœa, and was kept in the urethra five or six hours, until the scalding and running, with the other symptoms of gonorrhœa, re-appeared. The military surgeon *Odenkirchen* applied this mode to a soldier, who had laboured under an indurated testicle, enlarged to the size of two fists, as hard as wood, from a suppressed gonorrhœa of four years standing; and repeating the plan, he cured the soldier. Inoculation from *gonorrhœa benigna* did not succeed. This experiment, though successful, will rarely be repeated; but it proves how *harmless* and *innocent* the *venereal poison* in urethra is; for this innocent matter can communicate the *virus* without coition: hence the necessity of keeping the end of the penis clean in the disorder, &c.

Affections.

FISTULA OF THE ANUS
more frequently arises from venereal affections ill cured, than from any other cause. That excellent surgeon, Mr. Samuel Sharp, observes, that there are few he could not trace to arise from the *venereal virus*.

CONTRACTION OF THE ANUS.

This arises spontaneously from the venereal virus, but is not frequent, and is commonly spasmodic from nervous consent of parts.

VENEREAL WARTS AND EXCRESENCES.—These are sometimes proofs of venereal infection, sometimes not.**BUBOES, OR SWELLINGS OF THE LYMPHATIC GLANDS OF THE GROIN.**—These commonly originate from suppressing the running by styptic injections.*Remedies and Treatment.*

By attention to circumstances; if external, by the modes already recited; and to be cautious about a too free use of the knife, unless pressing symptoms render it necessary.

Fistulæ connected with diseased prostate gland, or vesiculæ seminales, are difficult of cure, but should be attempted by the means recommended in fistula of the perinæum, with attention to circumstances.

Internal fistula should be attempted by injecting solutio hydrargyri muriati, by fumigations and mercurial alteratives; by which means many have been cured without cutting, or greatly relieved.

First by bougies with unguentum hydrarg. camphoratum, afterwards large sponge tents with the same unguentum; but if dilatation be impracticable by these means, scarifications are to be made, according to the plan of *Brambilla*, joined to the internal use of the above medicines, with mercurials and camphor, internally.

By causticum camphoratum penicillo applicandum, whether in the vagina, on the prepuce or glans penis, or near the anus, &c. From their variety of figure they have acquired many names. I have known them sometimes drop off under a mercurial course; at other times repeated salivations fail of removing them.

If inflamed and tending to abscess, suppurating cataplasms are to be applied, and afterwards opened by incision; if indurated, unguentum hydrargyri camphoratum is to be well rubbed on the under part of the penis, groins, and inner part of the thighs. In both cases mercurial alteratives are necessary, not only during, but after the cure, lest any taint of the venereal poison remain, or be conveyed to the constitution.

*Affections.***CUTANEOUS DISEASES.**

Copper-coloured venereal spots, scabs, fissures, or cracks in the palms of the hands, pustules, serpentine eruptions, tinea or scald head, falling off of the hair and nails, itching, spots resembling leprosy, cutaneous ulcerations, commonly accompanied with other signs of chronic venereal infection.

Remedies and Treatment.

All these varieties, as they spring from one source, are to be treated in a similar manner; by mercurial alteratives, as pilulæ alterantes fortissimæ, fortiores, mitiores, and by mercurial frictions, every second or third night, without exciting salivation, or by solutio antimonialis mercurialis, especially if the periosteum of bones be affected, causing nightly pains in the shins, arms, &c.; and by mercurial lotions, by light salivation, if accompanied with diseases of the periosteum, or bones, &c.

IN THE EYES.**INFLAMMATION, OR OPH-
THALMIA.**

This is sometimes conveyed by the fingers rubbing the eyes during a venereal running, or occasioned by a suppressed running.

**EXUDATION OF PUS FROM
THE EYE-LIDS.****SPOTS OR SPECKS ON THE
CORNEA, from inspissation of
fluid in the laminæ, &c.****ULCERS OF THE CORNEA.****PUS, OR MATTER IN THE
EYE-BALL.****FISTULA LACHRYMALIS.**

By mercurial alteratives and the *lotio penetrans*. I have known opacities of the cornea, and blindness, to ensue before the causes were known. See third volume of the *Rational Practice of Physic*.

To be treated on a plan similar to the foregoing, and with aqua ophthalmica gummosa, ever avoiding poultices in all diseases of the eyes, lest suppuration happen *.

By the external use of the *lotio penetrans*; internally, by solutio antimonialis mercurialis cum nitro, or other mercurial alteratives; solutio hydrargyri gummosa; pilulæ alterantes, &c.; according to cases and constitutions.

By similar methods, or with aqua ophthalmica gummosa.

If formed under the cornea, the eye sometimes bursts, the humours are evacuated, and an incurable blindness must be the consequence.

According to art and circumstances, by

* See third volume of *Rational Practice of Physic*, on eye diseases, particularly *ophthalmia venerea*, &c.

Affections.

Arising from obstruction, or disease of the *ductus lachrymalis*, and known by tears or matter flowing down the cheek, &c.

LEPRA VENEREA, or venereal leprosy, when the two evils are joined with falling off of hair, crusted eruptions, &c.

TUMOURS ON THE MARGIN OF THE EYE-LIDS are various, as *hordeolum*, &c. See vol. iii. *Rational Practice*.

LOSS OF SIGHT sometimes arises from violent salivations, from coid, from internal disease, from stopping the running by astringents, &c.

AFFECTION OF THE EARS, OR COPHOSIS.

This is a perfect or imperfect deafness from the venereal poison, arising either from suppressed *running*, caries of the bones, of the ear, from some venereal vice of the fauces, or morbid effect of the structure of the ear, ulcer, &c.

OF THE NOSE.

Ulceration, known by snuffling, a discharge of fetid matter, or is visible.

Remedies and Treatment.

the *lotio penetrans*, by mercurial alteratives, and, in some cases, by an operation to liberate the obstructed nasal duct. See third volume of *Rational Practice of Physic*.

Cured by *solutio hydrarg. muriati**; or by *Ward's White Drop*, which preparation being long published, is not, as formerly, a quack medicine.

To be destroyed by the *causticum camphoratum*, if indurated and troublesome; if suppurating or encysted, to be opened at a proper time, and by destroying the cyst, or they return; by mercurial alteratives.

By various remedies, according to causes, whether in the *cornea transparenis*, from turbid aqueous humour, from opacity of the crystalline lens, or its capsule; from contracted, or from immoveable pupils, *cataract*, *gutta serena*, &c.

Internally, by mercurial alteratives; externally, by *cinnabarine fumigations*, *lotio penetrans*, &c. The fumigation to be conveyed by an instrument, that I invented many years ago, which is quite superior to the common fumigating machine. It is an iron funnel, about eighteen inches long, curved at the top, to which is added a quill or ivory tube, to diminish the heat of the iron, whilst the fume is passing.

By *cinnabarine fumigations*, by *solutio antimonia mercurialis*, *mercurial frictions* at proper distances, so as not to salivate; by injections of *hydrargyrus muriatus* dissolved in *aqua*, cautiously applied.

* I have had an instance of a woman in Davies Street, where the eruption sealed in a surprising quantity. See likewise Raymond, *Traité des Maladies qu'il est dangereux de guérir*; and, *Dissertazione sopra le Malattie, que si curano nel regio Spedale di S. EUSEBIO in Fiorenze*. *Nihil frequentius est connubio ieprosi et venerei dicit SCHILLING* in suo libro de *Lepra*, p. 39.

Affections.

LOSS OR DEFORMITY OF THE NOSE.

This is occasioned by the destruction of the septum and nasal bones. It makes a man appear like a monkey, or ape; miserable effect of venereal poison, neglect, or ill-treated recent infection! I have known some instances where I could trace the loss of the nose to the improper use of *astringent injections*, or by treating the venereal virus without its grand specific, mercury, when recent.

OF THE MOUTH.

APHTHÆ, OR LITTLE ULCERS.

These arise from sucking infected nurses, or from confirmed lues.

VENEREAL ULCERS OF THE LIPS, MOUTH, AND PALATE.

These have arisen from merely kissing, lasciviously, an infected person with ulcers of the venereal kind in the mouth, &c.

OF THE NECK AND FAUCES.

Scrophulous swellings, or king's evil of the neck, throat, or of any lymphatic gland, from venereal causes.

SORE THROAT.

This is known by difficulty in swallowing, with or without venereal ulcers, or inflammation, hoarseness, &c. and is generally visible, by examining the fauces.

Remedies and Treatment.

It is incurable; but if accompanied with ulceration, fumigations should be used; and afterwards the only remedy is an artificial nose: miserable recourse!

Before the misfortune happens, every method art can suggest should be skilfully applied, according to the various circumstances; for sometimes the uvula, palate, and fauces, are complicated in the dreadful case, the treatment of which requires the utmost circumspection.

The venereal deformities have been accurately supplied by the ingenious *M. De Chemant*, now in London.

By solutio hydrargyri gummosa faccharrata, in children, and by the general methods in other instances.

By fumigations of cinnabar bis de die, by mercurials, or alteratives, until the ulcers be healed, and the venereal poison extinguished; and by a continuance of the remedies for some time after all the symptoms have disappeared. The same should be observed in all chronic venereal cases.

By mercurial alteratives; as pilulæ alterantes, mercurial courses; and when it happens to infants, from infected parents, by similar means.

By antiphlogistics joined with mercurials, if inflamed; if tending to gangrene, in bad habits, by antiseptics and tonics, as bark, vitriolic acid, &c. The virus of the disease remaining must be treated with the mildest mercurial alteratives, until the lues be perfectly extinguished.

Affections.

OF THE BONES,

As nodes or tophs, thickened periosteum of the middle part, or extremities of bones, &c. They happen in the *tibia*, or shin bone, forehead, and other bones, sternum, &c. which if the periosteum be detached, a caries is the consequence.

CARIES, OR ROTTENNESS.

This, sometimes, arises from a too long continued use of *mercurial frictions*, and from too severe salivations.

SPINA VENTOSA.

This is the corruption of bones, beginning internally, and passing through the whole substance, enlarging the bone, and appearing externally; sometimes ulcerated, sometimes not.

SOFTNESS OF THE BONES, OR BRITTLENESS.

The former is known by a decrease of stature, curvature of bones; the latter by fracture, on slight occasions.—A more wretched situation for a human being can rarely be conceived.

In the *Salpetriere* at *Paris*, amongst the incurables, these dreadful calamities are seen, the effects of bad practice, &c.

OF THE JOINTS, AS GANGLIONS, ANCHYLOYSIS VENEREA, OR IMMOBILITY OF THE JOINT.

These may arise from diseased synovial glands, from deposition of fluid, when absorption is impeded, or from the absence of secretion.

Remedies and Treatment.

Externally, by perpetual vesicatorys, or blisters, applied to the swellings, to prevent formation of matter, and detachment of the *periosteum*, which are generally followed by caries, or rotten bones. Internally, *solutio antimonialis mercurialis*; externally, mercurial frictions, by salivations, judiciously raised and gently continued.

By waiting the exfoliation of bones, by diminishing or suspending the use of mercury, by the use of bark, decoction of farsaparilla and milk, with attention to the existing circumstances.

If not ulcerated, by mercurials, freely used internally and externally; by frictions with camphor; or by applying *unguentum hydrarg. camphorat.* in a poultice. If greatly enlarged, ulcerated, and incurable, by other means, amputation of the part, if possible, is necessary.

These cafes are generally incurable. Mercury sometimes aggravates all the symptoms, and these affections sometimes arise from too severe salivations; or too long continued use of mercury.

By applications and remedies, according to circumstances; by bark, vitriolated zinc, tonics, and similar remedies, which help to repair the broken constitution, and by chirurgical assistance, suspending the use of mercury.

These deep-seated complaints are generally irremediable; for not only the bones and periosteum are affected; but cartilages covering the heads of bones, concretions of joints, are the consequence.

Antivenercal fomentations and baths, the most penetrating mercurials, perpetual blisters, &c. are proper.

Affections.

WHITE SWELLINGS are more common in the knee than any other joint; they, however, happen in the elbow, and even in the wrists.

CONTRACTIONS

Chiefly arise from diseased tendons and nervous obstructions, &c. chronic spasms, &c.

*DISEASES PECULIAR TO WOMEN.**OF THE GENITAL PARTS.*

LEUCORRHOEA VENEREA is a discharge from the vagina, arising from venereal infection, with heat in the urine, &c.

SWELLING AND INFLAMMATION OF THE LABIA PUDENDI AND OTHER PARTS, ABSCESS, WITH SCIRRHUS, &c.

INDURATION.—Sometimes the scirrhi of the labia are incurable, except by operation—dreadful alternative!

ULCERS OF THE VULVA are similar to *chancre*s of the glans penis of men, which should never be treated with caustics, as I have known them to produce future poxes.

ULCERS OF THE VAGINA: similar to the former, in which caustical applications should be avoided, and a discharge promoted.

AFFECTIONS OF THE UTERUS.—Inflammation, scirrhus, or ulcer

Remedies and Treatment.

Frequently incurable; but should be attempted by blisters, long continued, by powerful mercurial courses, yet managed so as not to produce violent effects on the constitution, by alteratives, &c. mercurial fomentations and cataplasms, &c.

These are rarely cured; but causes, as far as possible, should be investigated and removed by mercurial fomentations, ointments, *solutio antimonialis mercurialis*, by *pilulæ alterantes*, &c. &c.

By means similar to those recommended in the *urethritis venerea* of men, only in smaller doses and the most gentle remedies, yet always sufficient to exterminate the poisonous venereal infection.

By antiphlogistics, light saline aperients, by fomentation of nitrous solutions and cataplasma emollientia, by removing original causes, and the judicious application of mercurials, by a feton.

To be treated in a method similar to that recommended in the affections of testicles in men, but by milder preparations, and in smaller doses.

By washing the affected parts with *solutio hydrargyri muriati*, and dressing them with *ung. digestiv. præcipitat. rubr.*: if difficult of cure, by cinnabarine fumigations, by *solutio antimonialis* to the strong, and *solutio hydrargyri gummosa* to the delicate of constitution.

By washing the affected parts with *solutio hydrargyri muriati*, and dressing them with precipitate digestive; by fumigations and internally mercurials.

If either scirrhus, or ulcer, very difficult of cure, or incurable; but to be attempted by

Affections.

ulcer of the os uteri, happen from venereal virus.

In some few instances, but very rarely, have I been able to cure *ulcus uteri*. See my Treatise on Cancers, to prevent impositions of pretenders.

OF THE BREASTS.

INFLAMMATION. — The breasts of women have been inflamed by infants sucking, who have had from birth *lues venerea*.

ULCERATION succeeds to inflammation and abscess; and incurable scirrhi, and cancer to these, are subsequents.

The scirrhus in the first stage is sometimes curable; operations in the scirrhi succeed for a time, but the disease after, often breaks out with redoubled violence. See Treatise on Cancers, &c.

INTERNAL AFFECTIONS OF
THE VENEREAL DISEASE,
COMMON TO BOTH SEXES.

FEVERS.

In the inflammatory stage of the *urethritis venerea* from swelled and inflamed prostate, testicles, prepuce, glans, or groin, throat, and fauces; arising from the venereal virus causing inflammation; or the sudden vanishing of buboes, or other venereal symptoms, from impure coition, not affecting the genital parts, from the running suppressed, and absorption of the virus into the constitution, exciting fevers.

Remedies and Treatment.

by mercurial alteratives, as pilulæ alterantes fortiores, &c. by injections of solutio hydrargyri muriati, and attention to circumstances; by opiates. In these cases a complete knowledge of midwifery is necessary, particularly the touch.

By bleeding, antiphlogistic aperients, and saline remedies, by suppurative poultices, if tending to abscesses, by mercurial alteratives afterwards, if induration remain, by pilulæ alterantes fortiores, &c.

By pledgets of precipitate digestive with mercurials, internally, as alteratives, &c.

There are varieties of female disease that arise from venereal infection, difficult to discover; therefore penetration, caution, and prudence, are very necessary in practitioners, lest they be deceived. The delicacy of the sex frequently compels them to conceal what the medical art must comprehend.

By venæsection, antiphlogistics, and saline purges, with mercurials, as solutio antimonialis mercurialis cum nitro, solutio hydrargyri gummosa, with nitre and tar-tarised antimony, saline draughts, and camphor, with antimonial diaphoretics, continually preserving a moderate perspiration through the whole cure. By well comprehending indications, contra-indications, symptoms, and curative intentions, By reproducing the running, by means of medicated bougies, which see hereafter,

Affections.

ERUPTIVE FEVERS, if not putrid-tending.

NERVOUS SLOW FEVERS.**BILIOUS FEVERS.**

HECTIC.—This arises from concealed or open ulcers, causing absorption and consumption of the body, coughs, &c.

INTERMITTENT.—They happen in moist places, in cold air, from long-continued east and north-east winds. They are either quotidian, tertian, or quartan.

SPASMODIC AFFECTIONS.**TETANUS, OR SPASMODIC RIGIDITY.**

This is an universal rigidity of the muscles of the whole body.

Episthotonus and emprosthotonus are partial contractions of the muscles of the neck.

Trismus, or locked jaw: this happens sometimes from too strong salivations.

EPILEPSY, OR CONVULSED FITS, arise from various causes of irritation, caries of bones, &c.

OF THE SENSES.

LANGUOR, commonly arising from debility, diminished nervous powers, &c.

Remedies and Treatment.

By means similar to those recommended above, or by pilulæ alterantes cum haustu salino, by volatile saline draughts, cum antimonio tartarisato, camphor, snakeroot, &c.

By bark, vitriolated zinc ad gr. $\frac{1}{4}$ vel $\frac{1}{2}$ dissolved, by alteratives mane et nocte.

By sapo, pilulæ hydrargyri and rhubarb, by kali acetatum, sal polychrest. &c. &c.

By solutio hydrarg. gummosa, camphor, antinon. tart. and saline remedies; pilula hydrarg. cum pilula scillitica et pilula è styrace, &c.

If idiopathic from venereal virus, by mercurials and antimonials; if accessoria, arising from its own cause in venereal patients, by cortex, zincum vitriolatum during the intermissions and mercurials, with antimonials during the febrile paroxysm.

By musk, camphor, mercurial alteratives, warm nitrous baths, opium, and all antispasmodics; but they frequently fail. I have given an account of six remarkable cases of tetanus and locked-jaw, cured by pilulæ alterantes fortiores, and camphor, &c. See vol. ii. of *Rational Practice of Physic*, where may be seen numerous practical remarks and prescriptions for all nervous affections, madness, &c. and a treatise on suicide.

By bleeding, foetid gums, cathartics, camphor, opium, mercurials; if with debility, bark, flowers of zinc, bitters, and tonics, Hoffman's anodyne liquor, in camphor-julep, cinnabar and camphor, &c.

By zincated and vitriolic preparations; bark, chalybeates, bitters, volatiles, and cardiacs; and by removing causes, blisters, electricity, &c.

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PALSY.—Partial or total abolition of muscular powers. See Palsy, in the Treatise on Nervous Diseases, &c. At the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary many cases have been cured from various causes.

PAINFUL AFFECTIONS, arise from various causes, irritating the nervous system, &c.

VIOLENT HEAD-ACH.—More violent at night than in the day, and often very severe.

WANT OF SLEEP AT NIGHT, WITH OR WITHOUT PAIN.—Persons affected with *lues*, of delicate, nervous, and irritable habits, often suffer great inquietude from mental and corporeal irritation.

COLIC.—This may arise from *checked running*, or latent venereal affection, from obstinate constipation, flatus, violent effects of mercurials on the nervous intestinal canal, or nervous sensibility.

RHEUMATISM, ISCHIATICA.—The former pains in the muscles, between the joints, the latter in the hip joint.

DIFFICULTY OF BREATHING.—From cold during a mercurial course, or by sudden change of air, from pulmonic and other causes, a north-east wind, &c.

Remedies and Treatment.

By blisters and liniments, to be applied not only where the lameness appears, but on or near the nerve, or nerves, that send branches or surculi to the part, if possible; by pilulæ alterantes, mercuriales, common salt and warm water baths, tonics, volatiles, &c.

By removing causes, if discoverable; if from inflammation, by bleeding, &c.; if from great irritation, by camphor, opium, and other narcotics.

By blisters, applied to the neck, between the shoulders, solutio antim. mercurialis, by mercurials as alteratives, or light salivants.

By removing immediate or accidental causes, by solutio antimonialis mercur. camphor, and opium; if from tophs on the ribs, pain in the side, sternum, or periosteal affection, mercurials, or salivants, blisters to the parts, removing caries, or diseased part of bones, and by applying medicines according to circumstances.

By bleeding, eccoprotic, or lenient purgatives of kali tartarifat. manna, senna, oleum ricini, rhubarb, calomel, and bitter cathartics, in obstinate costiveness; by solutio hydrargyri gummosa.—The arthritic stomach cannot bear mercurials united with mineral acids, but hydrargyric gum-pills, or frictions, should be used, in a very gentle manner, and with great caution.

These are curable only by mercurials or mercurial alteratives; solutio antimonialis cum camphore et opio, mercurial peridiluvia, and universal warm baths.

By bleeding, blisters to the scrobiculus cordis, nitre, antimony, and camphor, solutio antimon. merc. with camphor, &c. If chronic, by pilulæ è scilla cum pil. hydrargyri, lac ammon. and volatiles, according to present circumstances.

Affections.

COUGH.—From similar causes to the former.

HOARSENESS.—This arises from ulceration of the larynx, or from latent venereal infection.

FLUXES FROM VARIOUS PARTS.—VENEREAL SALIVATION.

FREQUENT DESIRE OF GOING TO STOOL, OR TENESMUS.—This is attended with mucal discharge, arising, sometimes, from consent of parts, in inflammations of the prostate, neck of the bladder, about the verumontanum, from abscess, or ulcers of those parts, &c. The most frequent causes are checking the venereal running by *astringent injections*, and other mal-practices, from ulcer in the rectum, condylomata, &c.

Flowing of purulent matter with the urine, from ulcers of the kidneys, bladder, or urethra. These have followed the use of *astringents*, and are sometimes incurable.

Emaciations, or wasting of the body, called venereal consumptions.

These arise from various causes: from venereal profuse discharges; from induration of the mesenteric glands; from latent lues venerea; from nocturnal pains; venereal ulcers of the uterus, or of the lungs; ulcers

of

Remedies and Treatment.

By methods similar to the last, by light opiates joined with mercurials; paregoric elixir, and *tinctura scillæ*.

By cinnabarine fumigations, lightly received, mercurial-gum solution, *solutio antimon. merc.* &c.

When too copious, to be restrained by abstaining from mercury, and, according to circumstances, by sulphureous preparations, crude antimony in honey, &c.

By unguent. hydrarg. camphorat. applied to the perinæum, sitting in warm mercurial baths, clysters of *solutio hydrarg. gummosa*, camphor, warm water and opium. Internally, mild cathartics: in inflammation, the running should be reproduced by *medicated bougies*, and every method used to cure by resolution: for no physician can foresee the ill consequences of ulcers of the prostate, perinæum, or rectum. Opiates and oleaginous remedies are sometimes useful. Ulcers of the rectum are frequently curable by *pulu. alterans purificans*, long continued.

If from the neck of the bladder, it is attended with excruciating pain; if from the urethra, less pain is felt, frequently none.

By removing the causes of ulcers, as in other venereal cases: this is assisted by mercurial detergent injections, *solutio antimonialis mercurialis*, &c. if in the urethra.

All these species are to be skilfully treated, according to circumstances, climate, seasons of the year, ages, sexes, and constitutions of patients, as in all other affections.

By antivenereal remedies, either light mercurials, or alteratives, with camphor, antimony, pectorals, &c. and tonics; where there are no contra-indications, or symptoms that prevent their use. To well

com-

Affections.

of the medulla of bones; venereal induration, and tubercles of the lungs, &c. &c.

**OF THE VENEREAL DISEASE
IN PREGNANT WOMEN.**

Under this head are considered those who conceive, and often contaminate the *fætus* with the *venereal virus*; either from local infection in the genitals, or chronic venereal disease of the constitution. I have seen many shocking cases of this nature, and some wherein neither father nor mother knew they had the disease, until it appeared in their offspring. Some of these instances have been so intricate, that they could scarcely be accounted for; but there are many similar and incontrovertible facts, that cannot be always explained!

**OF THE VENEREAL DISEASE
OF INFANTS.**

Children, whose parents were infected, are frequently born with the most evident and unequivocal marks of the disorder, many instances of which I have observed at the hospitals and in private practice.

They are born with copper-coloured spots about the anus, perinæum, vulva, scrotum, and sometimes in every part of the body; excoriations and superficial lardaceous ulcers succeed in a few weeks, or months; the fauces and lips are cracked and eroded;

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comprehend contra-indications in all diseases, is one of the most essential attributes, and sublimest perfection of the science of medicine.

In all the methods of cure applied during pregnancy, the contra-indications to common methods of cure should be well considered, and the most gentle courses adopted. If mercurial frictions be preferred, they should be very mild, and used at the distance of two or three days. The pilulæ hydrargyri, pilulæ hydrargyri gummosæ, solutio hydrargyri gummosa, syrpus hydrargyri gummosus, are the most excellent remedies during pregnancy, in small doses, at proper intervals.

By these means I have cured many pregnant women, and have seen infants, under such circumstances, born without the horrid disease, who are now living instances of the utility of midwifery science in treating the *lues* of pregnant women; otherwise abortions might have happened, &c.

In all these miserable instances of human affliction, the science of medicinally treating children's diseases should be well comprehended, lest, in attempting to cure the disease, an injudicious application of remedies kill the innocent babes, whose birth to misfortune merits the most humane commiseration.

The methods appropriate to the cure, after well considering the contra-indications, are, the use of gentle frictions applied to the mother, if the child should suck; or the lightest anti-venereal remedies may be given to the wet-nurse, if such can be procured. If

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eroded: hoarseness of voice, nightly cryings, difficulty of swallowing, wastings, and a miserable death!

This is called *lues venerea contracta infantum*; to distinguish it from *lues latens*, which shows itself after birth, with *lippitudo* and other symptoms of lues; and also from *lues acquisita*, or that which is acquired by sucking an infected nurse. In the Treatise on Diseases of the Eyes there is a remarkable case of a nurse infecting the infant, and the infant the mother, &c.

OF THE LATENT LUES VENEREA.

The venereal virus, or poison, may lie concealed in the constitution, without any manifest signs of the disease, and yet sometimes infect by the act of coition. It is uncertain how long the venereal poison may lurk in the habit before it breaks forth in evident symptoms; but in the course of my extensive and long practice, I have known it, from the best information I could collect, in various instances, wherein there could be no reason for deception, or duplicity in the patient, to have remained lurking in the constitution many months or years.

OF THE LARVATED LUES.

This is a species of venereal disease, not appearing in the usual form in the genitals, &c. &c.; but under the mask of other disorders,

Remedies and Treatment.

the infant should not suck, or be prevented from chaps and ulcerations about the lips, or mouth, which are not unfrequent, then frictions of *unguentum hydrargyri mitius* reduced by adding three-fourths of *adeps suillæ*, may be applied to the extremities every second, or third night, as circumstances may admit; and proper internal remedies are to be applied, to prevent or check fluxes, or other disastrous effects of the disease, or its remedies.

Infants, likewise, may take small doses of the syrups *hydrargyri gummiferus*, or *hydrarg. cum creta*; but most preparations of mercury combined with mineral acids are too powerful for both mothers and infants.

By methods already described, always acting according to circumstances, age, sex, constitution, &c. &c.

When the lues venerea may be reasonably supposed to be lurking in the habit, without any manifest tokens, the administration of antimony with mercury will sometimes expel the virus towards the skin, and produce venereal blotches or eruptions. In some instances I have discovered the venereal virus to be in the constitution, by giving pilulæ alterantes, *solutio antimon. merc.* &c.

These remedies determining the disease to the cutis, manifested the causes that before were undiscovered.

By means already mentioned under the particular heads of Fevers, Colic, Languor, &c. These cases are very difficult to discriminate; but by accurate examination-

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disorders, as fever, cough, colic, languor, palsey, &c.

OF THE LUES VENEREA complicated with other Diseases, as the Scurvy, Scrophula, Leprosy, or with acute Diseases, as Fevers inflammatory and bilious, or with Diseases from excessive Venery.

Persons afflicted with the lues venerea are not preserved from the plague, as some have imagined, more attached to idle speculations than a scrutinizing attention to absolute facts in practice, on which alone physicians should form and confirm their professional judgment.

The venereal disease is sometimes complicated with chronic rheumatism, exciting nocturnal muscular pains; at other times, with the gout, with fixed pains in the joints: in the dura mater it causes dreadful chronic head-achs.

The lues venerea is sometimes complicated with diseases arising from mercury, &c. Hence fevers, haemorrhages, fluxes, ulcers of the mouth and fauces, corroding the cheek and other parts from an immoderate use of mercury, especially from too severe salivations excited by mercurial frictions, &c. depositions of mercury in various parts, but particularly in the bones, from which arise direful pains, tremors, rheumatisms, spitting of blood, lan-

Remedies and Treatment.

tion of patients, they are sometimes, though not always, discoverable.

In the lues complicated with sea and land scurvy, in debilitated habits, mercurials cannot be admitted, except in the gentlest manner, and joined with antimonial sulphurs, until the constitution be restored by a skilful administration of the remedies and diet appropriate to those disorders.

When complicated with scrophula, symptoms of which sometimes arise from colds, during a mercurial course, or with leprosy, *pilulae alterantes* are most proper, and they should be long continued night and morning; if the scrophulous tumours be *hard*, nitre and camphor may be taken, in addition to the pills; if *soft* and spongeous, with evident relaxation of the cellular structure, a judicious application of tonics should be administered, in the middle of the day, whilst the resolvent alteratives are taken night and morning. If complicated with fevers, cooling saline remedies, and bleeding, in the inflammatory kind; in low, nervous, and putrid fevers, tonics and antiseptics are proper. See Treatment of Fevers in the *Rational Practice of Physic*, vol. iv.

If with disorders from too much venery, or pollutions; passions must be restrained, and proper diet, with tonic remedies, instituted, according to circumstances, constitutions, ages, &c. The use of mercury must be suspended, decoctions of bark, sarsaparilla, tonics, and chalybeates, in debility; in haemorrhages, preparations of zinc and tonics, not irritating, to restrain the blood and brace the habit. Fevers must be treated according to their species. The effects of mercury are counteracted by sulphureous preparations; as baths with hepar sulphuris; flores sulphuris, lac sul-

Affections.

guor, epileptic fits, and many chronic affections.

Wesfer and others have found crude mercury in the head, and in different parts of the body. Diseased bones are very common in the museums of anatomists, and some dreadful to behold, the frightful effects of venereal contagion, badly treated; or they have originated in the neglect or perverseness of patients, who, in direct opposition to the most excellent advice, will fly to quackery, or pursue their irregularities during a mercurial course, and thus bring misery and destruction on themselves and rising generation.

It is melancholy to reflect that numbers are injured by mal-practices, as well as their own perverseness and negligence, and by thinking too lightly of recent venereal affections.

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phuris, crude antimony, prepared and mixed in sugar, honey, &c. Chronic affections should be treated according to cases, with antimony, guaiacum, decoction of the woods, &c. warm sulphureous baths, and by ever avoiding to exhibit remedies worse, or stronger than the disease that medicine has to encounter.

To know the relative powers of disease, the strength of constitution, from the countenance and form of body, the force of medicines to be prescribed to remove causes in different habits, even in the same disease, are amongst the most important *desiderata* of practical medicine, without which it must be often vacuous, or unsuccessful. Symptoms specify disease; but the most sensible indications of cure are often collected from the peculiar complexion of patients: therefore physicians should possess quick penetrating eyes, to discriminate, and the clearest intellects, to reason and decide. The physiognomy of patients indicates, and as frequently determines *quid est agendum*, as the most obvious symptoms of disease.

OF PREVENTIVES.

MANY celebrated practitioners have recommended preventives against venereal infection. Some, who have conceived the disorder to be of an *alkaline nature*, have used acids, or lemon-juice diluted: others, who have supposed, with as little regard to truth, that the infectious particles were acid, or only entangled in the urethral mucus, have recommended volatile and other *alkalis*, even *lixivium saponarium*, or caustic alkali diluted, as injections and lotions. From the use of this last I have seen dreadful effects, as violent inflammations of the penis, swelled testicles, and bloody urine; and I have known numerous instances, wherein the other pretended preventives have absolutely failed. Unctuous or oleaginous substances, united with camphor and mucilages, similar to the injection No. I.; or *unguentum album camphoratum*, combined with *ung. hydrarg.* applied to the under surface of

the prepuce and to the glans penis; a little of the same ointment, or injection, introduced by a fine hair pencil, about an inch or two up the urethra, immediately before coition, and washing afterwards, have, to my own knowledge, prevented venereal infection in numerous instances; for which very sensible reasons might be given; but if friction in the act of coition should rub off all the ointment, or expose the absorbents or urethra to the reception of the minute, penetrating, infectious particles of the disease, all those attempts at prevention may prove abortive.

FORMULÆ MEDICAMENTORUM, OR FORMS OF PRESCRIPTIONS. -

NO. 1. INJECTIO HYDRARGYRI
GUMMOSA.

Rx Ung. hydrarg. fort. 3ij,
Vitel. ovorum duorum, vel
Mucilag. gummi arab. 3fl ad 3vj,
Olei amygdalæ 3fl,
Aquaæ puræ 3ijfl. Fiat injectio.

NO. 2. INJECTIO MERCURIALIS.

Rx Mercurii vivi depurati 3j,
Gummi arab. electi 3fl.
Contere in mucum, adde sensim
conterendo Aquaæ puræ flj.
Miscentur, fiat injectio.

NO. 3. INJECTIO HYDRARGYRI.

Rx Hydr. muriati gr. j. Solve in
aquaæ distillataæ 3vijfl.
Mucilag. gummi arab. 3fl.
M. fiat injectio, ter vel quater de
die, utenda ope syphonis.

The elastic gum machine, with a conic-formed ivory tube, is more convenient than a syringe. I was one of the first, above thirty years ago, who introduced this improvement.

With the first of these injections I have cured an immense number of virulent gonorrhœas, by sheathing the urinary passage, and applying the specific mercury in its simplest form, to destroy the poisonous contaminating particles; but it was never used

unless the disease were very recent, and before the purulent stage appeared. It has been seldom recommended for many years, though an excellent remedy, from the few opportunities offering to administer it, in the first stage of the disease. I always, or most commonly, prescribed mucilaginous drinks, with or without nitre during its exhibition, and gentle antiphlogistic eccoprotics. The scalding, or *ardor urinæ*, was seldom experienced, the purulent stage of the disease was slight and short, the *mucal* discharge was much expedited, and this was left to diminish daily, until the running entirely ceased, for I never ordered *astringent injections*.

To secure the patient from all future ill consequences, I gave, internally, some light *mercurial* for two or three weeks; but never so as to affect the mouth, except from cold, or accident.

The second and third injections I never used, but give them with little alteration, on the authority of that justly celebrated physician, *PLENCK*, of Vienna, to whom mankind and the medical profession are singularly obliged for many learned writings.

INFLAMMATIONS.

It is necessary, in removing most species of inflammation, not only to evacuate the contents of the intestinal canal, but to prevent the daily food from proving nutritious, distending the vessels, and increasing arterial action. Gentle eccoprotics are appropriate to delicate constitutions, and more active antiphlogistic aperients to the robust, and to all, who, in opposition to medical advice, will indulge in their usual excesses, particularly during the cure of the inflammatory stage of the *urethritis venerea*, or any other venereal inflammation. Regular patients, however, may be frequently cured without laxatives. All aloetic and strong bitter purgatives should be avoided, as they occasion haemorrhoids and inflame the rectum, the contiguity of which part to the perineum and urethra forbids all stimulating practice.

In forming plans of prescription for venereal complaints, the convenience of the patient, for the purposes of concealment, is more frequently considered than the most accurate modes of treatment. As to laxative remedies, they are no longer necessary than during the first stages of inflammation, or occasionally in costiveness.

APERIENTIA.

NO. 1. ELECTUARIUM.

R_x Cinnab. fact. ʒjʒ,

Magnesiæ alb. ustæ 3vj,

Syr. simp. q. s. fiat electuarium, cuius sumat

Q. N. M. mane, vel mane et meridiæ quotidie.

The motive for prescribing laxatives morning and noon, is to prevent patients being disturbed in the night.

NO. 2. HAUSTUS.

R_x Kali tartarifati ʒjʒ. Solve in lactis amygd. ʒij, bis de die sumendus.

NO. 3. MISTURA.

R_x Kali vitriolat.

Mannæ, ~~aa~~ ʒjʒ. Solve in lactis amygd. ʒjʒ, cuius sumat ʒij bis vel ter de die.

NO. 4. PULVIS.

R_x Pulv. salis polychrest. 3vj,

. . . rhei ʒij. M. f. pulvis dividendus in partes xvj, quarum sumat unam in pauxillo aquæ bis de die.

NO. 5. MISTURA.

R_x Mannæ optimæ ʒjʒ,

Solve in aquæ puræ ʒvj,

Olei amygdalæ ʒjʒ,

Mucilag. gummi arab. 3vj. M. cuius sumat cochlearia tria ter vel quater de die.

In some constitutions, where *ardor urinæ* is violent, these almond emulsions are excellent, as likewise in that distressing symptom *chordæ*.

It should be remembered, that the sooner inflammatory symptoms are removed, so much the shorter will be the purulent, mucus stages, and cure of the *urethritis venerea*.

Any of the neutral purgative salts are likewise proper in plethoric habits, as

Sal catharticus amarus,

. . . Glauberi,

. . . Rupellenfis dissolved in *aqua*, with or without manna, of which, as also of the former prescriptions, may

be made draughts, or mixtures, &c. according to the will of the prescriber.

NO. 6. MISTURA.

Rx Kali tartar. 3vj. Solve in aquæ puræ 5vij.

Pulv. rhei 3j. M.

Cujus sumat coch. iij mane et meridiæ, quotidiæ.

NO. 7. ELECTUARIUM.

Rx Ele&t. sennæ (lenitiv.) 3ijß,

Kali tartarisati 5vj.

M. f. electuarium, cujus sumat

Q. N. M. vel amplius mane et meridiæ, quotidie.

NO. 8. PULVIS.

Rx Pulv. rhei 3j,

Salis Glauberi,

Pulv. crem. tart. 3ij.

Fiat pulvis dividendus in partes No. xvij, quarum sumat unam bis de die in coch. iij aquæ puræ.

FOR SOLDIERS, AND ALL ROBUST PERSONS.

NO. 9. PULVIS.

Rx Pulv. salis nitri 3ß,

... jalapii 3ij. M. f. pulvis dividendus in partes viij, quarum sumat unam bis vel ter de die cum coch. iij aquæ.

NO. 10. PILULA.

Rx Calom. ppr. 3j,

Pulv. jalapii 3j,

... rhei 3ß. M.

Deinde adde syr. e spinâ cervi aliquot guttas, fiant pilulae No. 40, quarum capiat No. iij vel iv bis de die.

As one of the gentlest eccoprotics, a tea-spoonful of magnesia may be taken in water twice a day; but if there should not be sufficient acidity in the stomach to assist its operation,

an elegant mode of promoting its laxative effect, is to drink a little lemonade after the magnesia. As a more powerful antiphlogistic cathartic, the following may be sometimes necessary in strong habits. These two last remedies are the extremes of mild and powerful practice.

NO. 11. ELECTUARIUM.

Rx Pulv. crem. tart. 3ijß,

... jalapii 3ß.

Syr. simp. q. f. fiat electuarium, de quo capiat quantitatem nucis juglandæ bis de die, vel pro re natâ.

This electuary, with a little ginger added, is very efficacious in evacuating serum, in dropsies; by directing a tea-spoonful to be taken every hour, with a little tincture and infusion of senna after each dose, *donec alvus copiose respondeat*. Thus given, it has evacuated many quarts of fluid in the *ascites*, *anasarca*, and even in *hydrops thoracis*, or dropsy of the chest. In such cases, some have been effectually cured of the ascites, without, and even after tapping; others greatly relieved, and their lives prolonged, in those desperate and dangerous cases. This electuary is repeated every third or fourth day in those diseases, where there is no contra-indication, and on the intermediate days *pilulae e scilla cum pilula hydrargyri* are taken morning and evening; and in the middle of the day, tonics of zincum vitriolatum, or preparations of steel, bitters, and bark are exhibited. See *Treatise on Swelled Legs, Dropsies, and on retarding the Decay of the Constitution, &c.*

COMMON DRINKS IN THE FIRST
STAGES OF URETHRITIS VENE-
REA, WHILST THE ARDOR URINÆ
AND OTHER INFLAMMATORY
SYMPTOMS CONTINUE.

NO. 12.

Rx Decoct. hordei $\frac{1}{2}$ ij,
Salis nitri $\frac{3}{4}$ fl. Solve pro potu ordinario.

NO. 13.

Rx Lactis amygd. $\frac{1}{2}$ ij,
Salis nitri $\frac{3}{4}$ fl. M. pro potu communio.

NO. 14.

Rx Rad. aitheæ incisæ $\frac{3}{4}$ fl.,
... glycyrrhizæ $\frac{3}{4}$ fl.

Coque in aquæ puræ $\frac{1}{2}$ ij fl. ad $\frac{1}{2}$ ij, et cola.

This may be drank with or without nitre. I have known this decoction alone apparently cure a *gonorrhœa virulenta*, as it was called, when drank in large quantities and the patient observed a strict regimen; but it is apt to leave great relaxation about the neck of the bladder, and cause an incontinence of urine.

To any of the above drinks, in case of *chordœe*, may be added some tinct. opii, according to constitutions and circumstances, or the following forms may be used.

NO. 15.

Rx Camphoræ $\frac{3}{4}$ j,
Amygd. decort. $\frac{3}{4}$ ij,
Sacchari alb. $\frac{3}{4}$ j.

Contere bene, dein adde gradatim

Aquaæ puræ $\frac{1}{2}$ ij,
Salis nitri $\frac{3}{4}$ fl.,
Tinct. opii $\frac{3}{4}$ j.

M. sumat coch. iv ter vel quater de die: or

NO. 16.

Rx Camphoræ pulv. $\frac{3}{4}$ fl.,
Pulv. opii gr. iv,
Sacchar. alb. gr. vij,

Mucilag. gum. arab. q. f. fiant pilulae xij, quarum sumat ij vel iij omni nocte, vel sepius in priapismo dolorifico.

Nitre and barley-water, and gum arabic, or linseed tea, and similar mucilaginous refrigerant drinks, are proper; but all fermented wine and strong liquors should be as much as possible avoided.

The most convenient remedies for allaying inflammation of the urethra are the following mucilaginous, demulcent, and antiphlogistic powders.

NO. 17.

Rx Pulv. tragac. comp. $\frac{3}{4}$ ij,
... salis nitri $\frac{3}{4}$ fl. M. f. pulvis dividendus in xxiv, partes, quarum sumat j quater de die vel sepius in cochlearibus iij aquæ puræ.

NO. 18.

Rx Pulv. gummi arab. $\frac{3}{4}$ ij,
... rad. liquorit. $\frac{3}{4}$ ij fl.,
... salis nitri $\frac{3}{4}$ ij fl.

M. f. pulvis dividendus in xxiv partes, quarum sumat unam sepe in coch. iij aquæ puræ.

Infusions of linseed, quince-seed, leaves of marshmallows, decoctions of liquorice and marshmallow roots with poppy heads, or orgeat, from the confectioner's, are all useful drinks during the inflammatory and purulent stages of *urethritis venerea*, with or without nitre: in short, so long as the heat or pain of urine remain, these remedies should be continued. Camphor is known to be excellent in strangury from blisters, and it is equally efficacious in *ardor urinæ*, and particularly in *chordœe*. It may easily be formed into pills, with blanched almonds, &c. for convenience, and, if necessary, pulv. opii may be added.

NO. 19.

Rx Camphoræ 3j,
Amygd. decort. 3j,
Sacchar. alb. 3fl. Contere bene, fiant
pilulæ No. xxxx, quarum sumat iij vel
iv ter quaterve de die.

NO. 20.

Rx Camphoræ,
Amygd. decort. 3j,
Pulv. opii gr. v. Contere bene, fiant
pilulæ No. xxxx, quarum sumat iij vel
iv omni nocte.

These remedies are proper during
the inflammatory stage of the *urethritis*

venerea. Delicate stomachs, how-
ever, cannot bear nitre, as I have
observed in the *Treatise on the Cure of
ulcerated Legs without Rest*, vol. iv. of
the *Rational Practice of Physic*. In
which case, the pulv. tragacanth.
comp. alone, or equal parts of pulv.
gum. arab. and pulv. rad. glycyrrhizæ,
form a very pleasant powder, two tea-
spoonfuls of which may be taken in a
little water, very often, in the course
of the day, whilst the heat of urine
may remain.

While the *urethritis venerea* is thus treated, in a mild manner, with anti-
phlogistic aperients and mucilaginous fletchers against urethral inflammation
and urinal acrimony; it should be remembered, that the cause of the evil con-
sists in *venereal virus*, which cannot, with certainty, be removed without mer-
cury; therefore, after the first few evacuations, that mineral should be ad-
ministered in the mildest forms, not as an evacuant, but as an alterative. This
plan consists in giving the preparations in small doses, and at proper distances,
so as never, unless by accident, to prove purgative or salivant. As these
methods are not well known, and mercurials are commonly prescribed in
too large doses, which may be seen in practice and in most prescription-
books, and the intention of repelling the virus is often defeated, it will
be necessary to deliver a short explanation of the alterative plan of cure,
which, in thousands of instances, has been successfully adopted.

I. There is a marked and positive distinction between the *venereal inflam-
mation* of the urethra and the inflammation of other parts, arising from differ-
ent and other various causes; hence the necessity of dissimilar treatment.

II. The most subtle poisonous particles of *venereal contagion* may not,
in all cases, be absorbed and conveyed into the constitution from recent
urethral affection; chancres ill treated by caustics, desiccatives, &c.: yet it is
impossible for the most sagacious and experienced physician to be quite
certain, when it may or may not have happened; it must be safest, therefore, to
guard against future ill consequences, by a judicious and mild administration
of the cause-removing specific, mercury. It is a disgrace to the art, not to
perfectly cure the primary affection, when in the genitals, so that no future
venereal symptoms may appear, unless in very extraordinary cases.

III. It is reasonable to suppose, and innumerable facts prove, that not
only the *venereal virus*, but *infectious*, and particularly *putrid* diseases, are

best opposed and most easily cured, when attacked at the most early period, by well-adapted and adequate remedies. A slight local affection is with greater facility cured than a disease of great magnitude: a clap, and primary symptoms, much more easily than a confirmed universal pox *. By giving mercurials early, absorption of the venereal virus is prevented; by neglecting this safe and secure mode of treatment, the foundation of a future *lues venerea* is promoted.

IV. It must appear evident that the venereal virus, when received and conveyed into the constitution, does not always show its effects in a few days, like acute, infectious, putrid-tending fevers, or small-pox, &c.; but is often slow in its progress, and very frequently not suspected to be in the habit, until dreadful symptoms show that the solids and fluids are, in certain degrees, contaminated with the penetrating *miasma*, or venereal poison.

V. Immediately after the virus may have been absorbed and carried through the thoracic duct, left or right subclavian vein, into the blood, the minute venereal particles must be very few in comparison to those, which, after long circulation and diffusion in the habit, produce such direful effects.

VI. When there be but few particles in the constitution, which must be the case whilst the disease be recent, those few particles must, as millions of indubitable facts prove, certainly be more speedily extinguished by mercury, at that early period, and by lighter means, than when the particles, producing the effect of universal *lues*, have been multiplied by daily, monthly, or annual accumulation, until the greater part of the body seems a series of venereal taint. The powerful methods of cure, often required under such circumstances, incontrovertibly prove this fact.

VII. When the venereal poisonous particles may be absorbed, the remedies should be applied so as not to purge; but to penetrate the inmost and most minute recesses of the habit, to exterminate not only the present seeds of the disease; but likewise the minutest parts of the human body should be so well saturated with the effects of mercury, that the baneful and destructive causes may be perfectly extinguished.

* With regard to the utility of attacking putrid-tending diseases spiritedly in their commencement, the successful practice I have so long adopted at the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary, and in private, has fully confirmed it. In malignant putrid infectious fevers, malignant putrid sore throat, scarlet fever, with angina putrida of children, in the confluent small-pox, it has ever been my practice to immediately apply the *tinctura rosarum*, as drink, and to give in the first stages of the disease the most powerful antiseptics, by which I have most assuredly saved thousands of lives, who would have fallen victims to those diseases by the common treatment of giving antiseptics when too late to be useful. See treatises on those subjects in the Rational Practice of Physic, &c.

VIII. As the accumulation of venereal particles, when absorbed, often seems slow in its progress, though perhaps daily acquiring additional force; so should remedies be applied, that act on the habit and effectually counteract *venereal poison* by *slow degrees*, with or without *opium*, according as the stomach and intestines are irritable, or non-irritable. Violent practices often have failed, and will fail, in eradicating the virus. From hence the principle of administering mercury in a mild manner, either by the mouth or frictions, or by both, that shall be efficacious; yet not excite those violent commotions of the body, that former severe salivations and other rough methods produced, and rendered the remedy, at times, worse than the disease.

IX. In this successful mode of treatment, there are no vain pretensions of ascertaining what are the component principles or particles of venereal virus; nor how mercury so wonderfully exterminates the disease: there is no unintelligible jargon of morbid disposition and action, action and disposition, &c. These, and a number more curious but useless and dangerous speculations, are left for those who continually puzzle themselves and others with what they may never comprehend, who, often when they have pursued the shadow of science, vainly think that they have obtained the substance. It is the business of practical physicians and surgeons to act and cure diseases, not to lose the precious moments of life in useless pursuits, nor in vain attempts to acquire what may for ever remain incomprehensible *. It should be remembered

* If physicians were to halt until the *modus operandi* of either diseases or remedies were perfectly understood, except those which are irrefutably evident, their patients would languish in misery, or die for want of assistance. Some of the medical dealers in fables, in all ages, have pretended to account for every phenomenon in nature. Their eternal wranglings, contradictions, and refutations, best determine the truth of their jarring tenets, and may be seen in the historical part of *Schola Medicinae*. The medical inventors and supporters of fictions, in every age, like the mad enthusiasts and violent sectaries in religion, philosophy, and politics, always modestly presume that they are alone right, and all the rest of the world in error. Wretched unfortunates! not to be enlightened by the penetrating rays of superstition, hypothesis, and hypocrisy, which, like meteors, frequently blaze for a time, then vanish like smoke, and hide their short-lived dazzling heads in those dark clouds from whence they issued. It is a happiness for society, that the most sensible and experienced seniors of the faculty play no part in the ridiculous comedies of chimera; they closely adhere to that sound practice, which success has long established, and which they daily, with humanity and sobriety of thinking, endeavour to improve; they see with concern the slaughters that are ever the consequences of rash inexperience, medical, temporary, fanciful excursions, and daring attempts to revolutionize that art, which these self-sufficient artists have not given themselves time to comprehend.

It would be useful for all professional visionists attentively to read *Locke* on

membered by the sensible, that bold assertions and mere opinions are no proofs, unless uniformly supported by facts of superior cures, in practice: the former pretensions may create the admiration of the weak-minded and credulous, the latter command the approbation of the learned.

X. The supposition that a confirmed *lues venerea* requires any particular quantity of mercury, applied to all subjects, in exactly the same ratio, to exterminate infection, is very erroneous. A small portion effects a cure in some, whilst an immense quantity will scarcely operate on others. The rule in practice should be, whether by light salivation, or any other mode of cure, to continue the remedies a considerable time after the symptoms have entirely disappeared; as the only means of preventing their reproduction.

XI. No one method of cure nor remedy can be adapted to the cure of the *veneral virus* in all cases, as quacks and impostors pretend with their pills, drops, syrups, &c.; for most constitutions require different treatment, according to circumstances, ages, and sexes, which it is the duty and office of discriminating skilful medicine to discover, that adequate remedies may be applied to all the singular cases that occur; or failure of success must be frequently the consequence.

XII. Those who assert that *argentum vivum purificatum*, *aethiops mineralis*, *cinnabar facitium*, are insignificant remedies, and entirely inactive, have certainly never reflected that saliva, the fluids in the stomach, the acid ferment in the first process of digestion, the pancreatic juice passing into the duodenum, similar to saliva, the bile, &c. may, in some measure, attract the simple particles of mercury, and other mercurial preparations *, by which means,

the Extent of Human Understanding: that great man and profound reasoner says.

“ If by this inquiry into the nature of the understanding, I can discover the powers thereof; how far they reach, to what things they are in any degree proportionate, and where they fail us; I suppose it may be of use to prevail with the busy mind of man, to be more cautious in meddling with things *exceeding its comprehension*; to stop, when it is at the utmost extent of its tether; and to sit down in a quiet *ignorance* of those things, which, upon examination, are found to be beyond the reach of our capacities. We should not then perhaps be so forward, out of *affection* of an *universal knowledge*, to raise *questions*, and *perplex* ourselves and others with *disputes* about things, to which our understandings are not suited, and of which we cannot frame in our minds *any clear* or *distinct* perceptions, or whereof (as it has perhaps too often happened) we have *not any notions* at all. If we can find out how far the understanding can extend its view; how far it has faculties to attain certainty; and in what cases it can only judge and guess, we may learn to content ourselves with what is attainable by us in this state.”

* Those, who will be at the trouble of examining the writings of the first admini-

means, in some instances, from mercurial particles being conveyed into the habit, those insignificant remedies, as they have been called, have been known to salivate, from the practical observations of the author and others. They are the *lightest* species of mercurial alteratives, and are not to be *depended on* in venereal affections, except occasionally as mild auxiliaries, when more powerful remedies cannot be judiciously prescribed, and when mercurials are obliged to be suspended. I have perfectly cured several ulcers of the *rectum*, not venereal, which had resisted all other methods, under the direction of the most skilful practitioners, by a long continuance of the *pulvis alterans purificans*, or by cinnabar and powdered purified nitre, joined with pulv. e tragacanth. comp. and similar compositions.

XIII. The main objects of cure, then, are the prevention of the *virus* attaching itself to the constitution, by meeting the contaminating particles in the early stages of venereal infection, and by attempting its utter extinction, if confirmed, without injuring the mouth, teeth and gums, stomach, or intestines, &c. by smaller doses, and by a longer continuance of the generous mineral, mercury, combined or uncombined with antimonials.

XIV. The *virus* is supposed to be conveyed by the same vessels as the antidote mercury, namely, by the absorbent lymphatics, into the constitution. When there may be cause for apprehending the absorption of venereal poison in any part, as from *gonorrhœa virulenta*, or *urethritis venerea*, from chancres, treated with caustics or preparations of *aqua calcis*, &c. from any scratch or abrasion of the skin coming into contact with the venereal poison, it is a rational practice, if possible, to use mercurial frictions, baths, peniluvia, &c.

administrators of mercury, will find they always extinguished mercury with *saliva*, when they formed their first rude unguents of that mineral for the venereal disease, compounded commonly with litharge, sulphur vivum, &c.

Foresius, who died old in 1597, says, De Lue Venerca, 113 ob. lib. xxxii. that the cure by ointments prepared from *argentum vivum*, or quicksilver, was first attempted by quacks, who having seen scabby eruptions, achor, and such diseases cured by mercury, were not afraid of applying it by the best reasoning and with the most happy success to the lues venerca, &c.—Curatio autem per unguenta ex argento vivo ab *empiricis* primum tentata fuit, qui cum scabiei, et illi generi tumoris quod $\alpha\chi\omega\zeta$ dicitur et aliis hujusmodi conserre vidissent, eoque scabiem capitis et totius eutis curari; huic morbo idem accommodare non veriti sunt, eoque dcinceps ratione optima, utque adeo felicissimo successu usi sunt, &c.—Case 117. De rustico quodam Nauta, et robusto, curato per Suffum ex Cinnabari, a Lue venerea. The disease, it seems, at that early period, was cured by cinnabarine fumigations, and empirics were the first who used mercury. A tonsor cured the disease, according to the same author, by pilulae mercuriales. The Arabians likewise used mercurial ointments, as may be seen in Mesue and others, in leprosy, &c. long before the venereal disease made its appearance in Europe.

promptly, so that the mercury shall attack that series of vessels that may be supposed to be first affected, and that are in the act of conveying the invisible poisonous particles to the constitution *.

XV. Such are the principles on which the alterative mode of exhibiting mercury has been founded; and however they may appear in theory, they have been universally beneficial in practice, if thousands of cases, perfectly and permanently cured, may be admitted as proofs.

MERCURIALIA.

MERCURIAL pills should be formed with those substances that are gradually soluble in the stomach, and which do not decompose or change their antivenerel properties; therefore *saccharum album* and *mucilago gummi arabici* have been prescribed as proper for calomel; and if those were not readily procurable, *confectio opifata*, or *democratis*, have been preferred to *conservae cynosbati*, vel *rosarum*; but not from the least expectation of the

* Every anatomist knows there are different series of lymphatics, some superficial, others deep-seated: their direction may be seen in one of the plates to my *Schola Medicinæ*, with all the lymphatic and absorbent vessels and glands of the whole human body at one view. The minute origin of these vessels, so far as injections and reasoning prove, proceed from all extremities and internal surfaces, towards the thoracic duct; and what they convey enters the subclavian vein, &c. The lacteal system terminates in the same manner. The venereal poisonous particles are absorbed if by a scratch or sore, for example, on the finger, by which midwives attending venereal patients have so frequently received the disease, by the superficial lymphatics proceeding and contaminating the blood, by first passing through the thoracic duct. It has been seen, both by myself and others; the marks of the virus proceeding from absorption, by the finger up the inside of the arm, in the direction of the superficial lymphatics, the brachial and axillary lymphatic glands have shown evident signs of inflammation, tumor, &c. Persons should be cautious how they even touch with the finger the vagina of an infected woman. Now, in such instances, the mercurial ointment, or mercurial bath, should be immediately applied to the finger, hand, &c. so that the mercury should be absorbed by the same vessels that conveyed the poison, if possible, before the lymphatics be inflamed; the penis likewise may be soaked frequently in a mercurial *peniluvium*, on the same principle, when *urethritis venerea* or chancres are present, not omitting, at the same time, the more powerful methods of exterminating the poisonous particles by mercury, which may have made their way into the sanguiferous system; by conveying mercury by the absorbents of the stomach and intestines, called lacteals, which may probably counteract the poison at its first entrance into the blood, and before it becomes diffused in the constitution.

opiate confections acting as narcotics, in the small quantity used for forming pills, as some have imagined, who have seen those prescriptions in my Rational Practice of Physic, in that part wherein alteratives are recommended in the cure of ulcerated legs without rest, cancerous, or chronic, or nervous cases. I have rather objected to the addition of opium with mercurials, unless the case particularly required its administration, as in irritable intestines, chordee, &c. A decided simple practice, directed to eradicate the disorder, is always to be preferred to complexity in composition. There are some reasons, which I may hereafter explain, for supposing that opium retards, or in some measure diminishes the active mercurial powers in curing many venereal complaints. Camphor united to mercury increases its power as an alterative, acts as a light diaphoretic, and very often specifically on the urinary passages in abating inflammation and irritation, particularly in violent *ardor urinæ* and in the *chordee*, with, or frequently without opium. *Camphor, calomel, and antimony*, are likewise extremely efficacious in all membranous inflammation, especially if joined with nitre dissolved, as in the pleurisy, peripneumonia, or inflammation of the lungs; *tela cellulosa* of muscles, or acute rheumatism, hepatitis peritonitis, the inflammation of the lungs superadded to an asthma in cold winters, &c. &c. *

NO.

* I have never attempted the cure of these complaints from the time of the capture of Belleisle, 1761, where numerous cases of this nature happened, in the autumnal season, without those excellent and efficacious remedies in conjunction with bleedings, vesicatories, occasional antiphlogistic aperients and warm bathings, &c. This is a decided manly practice, which numbers of the faculty, for years, in this metropolis, have seen attended with the utmost degree of success. In pleuritic and peripneumonic cases, it prevents suppurations and ulcerated lungs, pulmonary consumption, &c. It is quite opposite to that feeble mode of treatment, which the *sectatores naturæ*, or of those who, with solemn faces and plausible tongues, have sung forth, and continue to sing forth, in exulting or canting tones, the praises of their invisible imaginary agent, *vis medicatrix naturæ*, which is oftener *vis necatrix naturæ*. What fatality attends diseases, when left to the powers of nature, may be seen in the Treatise on putrid, ulcerated, and infectious Sore-throat: where the medical exemplifications of receiving undefinable expressions for things or facts must strike every human mind with conviction and horror! The notion, that mercurial preparations are only applicable to venereal complaints, and that diseases cured by mercury are all venereal, are amongst the grossest errors and fallacies of the profession. I have cured thousands of ulcerated legs, *without rest*, by *CALOMEL*, in small doses every other night, with nitre, camphor, bark, &c. in persons who never had venereal complaints. See treatise on this subject, with the *rationale*, in volume iv.

NO. 21. PILULÆ PURGANTES OR-
DINARIÆ PLENCKII.

℞ Massæ pilularum Rifi ʒij,
Rezin. jalap.

Aquilæalbæ, ʒij gr. iv. M. f. pilulæ
gr. iij f. assumantur pro una dosi.
Plenck says, His pilulis omni decimo
die alvum moveo illis, qui mercurio
utuntur; hæ pilulæ septies vel sæpius
alvum facile et certo movent, mille-
nis ægrotis præscriptæ hypercathar-
sin non causarunt.

NO. 22. SYRUPUS HYDRARGYRI.

℞ Mercurii vivi depuratissimi ʒij,
Gummi arabici pulverisati ʒijj,

Syr. simp. q. f. M. Conterantur in
mortario vitro donec mercurius abiit
in mucum; adde insuper conteren-
do syrapi simp. ʒij. M. Mane
ac vesperi detur infantibus cochleare
parvum ligncum, dosis sensim au-
gætatur.

This is proper for the venereal
affections of pregnant women, in-
fants, or persons of delicate habits.

NO. 23. SOLUTIO HYDRARGYRI.

℞ Mercurii viv. depuratissimi ʒij,
Gum. arabici pulverisati ʒijj,

Syr. simp. q. f. Conterantur in
mortario vitro, sensim affundendo
aliquantum syrapi, donec mercurius
omnis abiit in mucum. His satis
subæctis adduntur sensim conterendo
Aquaæ rosæ ʒijj.

NO. 24. SOLUTIO HYDRARGYRI
CAMPHORATA.

℞ Argenti vivi ʒij,
Gum. arabic. pulverisat. ʒijj,
Sacchari albi ʒij. Contere bene,

of the Rational Practice of Physic, and in the treatises on putrid fevers,
dropsies, &c. &c. &c. where mercurials are recommended from long ex-
perience, and numerous facts in various chronic and acute disorders.

affundendo sensim pauxillum aquæ
puræ, donec mercurius omnis abiit
in mucum perfecte mistum; deinde
adde gradatim

Misturæ camphoratæ ʒvij, cujus
sumat coch j bis vel ter de die, prius
agitata phiala. To this may be added
one grain of tartar. emetic.

NO. 25. PILULA HYDRARGYRI,
GUMMOSA PLENCKII.

℞ Hydrargyri purificati ʒij,

Gum. arab. pulveris. ʒijj,

Syrup. simp. q. f. Conterantur
benè in mortario marmoreo vel vitro
donec hydrargyrus in mucum abiit;
huic adde micæ panis albissimi ʒij;
subigantur bene in massam pilularem,
f. pilulæ gr. iij mane et vesperi
assumuntur x.

NO. 26. PILULA HYDRARGYRI.

℞ Pil. hydrarg. Pharmac. Lond.
ʒij, f. pilulæ No. xxxx, quarum su-
mat j vel ij mane et nocte.

NO. 27. PILULA HYDRARGYRI
CAMPHORATA.

℞ Pil. hydrarg. ʒijj,

Camphor: in pulv. redactæ ope
spiritus vini rectificati ʒijj. Con-
tundere benè, f. pilulæ No. ix, quarum
sumat ij vel iij mane ac nocte.

NO. 28. PILULA HYDRARGYRI CUM
OPIO.

℞ Pil. hydrarg. ʒijj,

Extraæt. opii ʒijj. M. accurate, f.
pilulæ No. xxxx, quarum capiat ij
vel iij omne nocte.

NO. 29. PILULA HYDRARGYRI
CUM CRETA.

℞ Hydrargyri cum creta ʒij,

Confec^t. opiat. q. s. f. pilule No. xxx, quarum sumat j mane et nocte.

NO. 30. PILULA HYDRARGYRI ACETATI.

R^x Hydrargyri acetati ʒij,
Sacchar. alb. ʒij,

Mucilag. gummi tragacanth. q. s. f. pilulæ No. ix, quarum capiat j vel ij mane ac nocte.

These are similar to the famous Keyser's pills, which Dr. Cooper formerly vended in London.

NO. 31. PILULA AQUILÆ ALBÆ.

R^x Aquilæ albæ (Merc. dulc. de-
cies sublimat. et benè præparat.) ʒij,
Sacchar. alb. ʒij M.

Mucilag. gummi arab. q. s. f. pi-
lulæ No. ccxl, quarum sumat j vel
ij omni nocte.

NO. 32. PILULA CALOMELANOS.

R^x Calomel. ppt. ʒij,
Sacchar. alb. ʒij. M. deinde adde
mucilag. gum. arabici q. s. f. pilulæ
No. ccxl, quarum sumat j vel ij omni
nocte.

In strong habits, three or four of
the above pills may be taken every
night. A larger dose would act too
powerfully on the stomach and in-
testines, unless restrained by opium.

NO. 33. PILULA CALOMELANOS
CAMPHORATA.

R^x Calomel. ppt. ʒij,
Camphor. in pulverem redactæ
ope spiritus vini rectificati ʒij,
Mucilag. gum. arab. q. s. f. pilulæ
No. cxx, quarum sumat ij vel iij
omni nocte, vel nocte ac mane.

NO. 34. PILULA CALOMELANOS
CUM OPIO.

R^x Calomel. ppt. ʒij,

Pulv. opii gr. xx,

Sacchar. alb. ʒij. M. deinde adde
mucilag. gum. arabici q. s. f. pilulæ
No. cxx, quarum capiat j vel ij omni
nocte.

NO. 35. PILULA CALOMELANOS
CAMPHORATA CUM OPIO.

R^x Pil. calomelan. camphorat. ʒij,
Extract. opii ʒij. M. accurate, f.
pilulæ No. ix, quarum sumat j vel ij
omni nocte, vel mane ac nocte.

NO. 36. PILULA CALOMELANOS
CUM ANTIMONIO.

R^x Sacchar. alb. ʒij,
Calomel. ppt. ʒij,
Pulveris Jacobi vel antimonialis
ʒij. M. accurate; deinde adde mu-
cilag. gum. arab. q. s. f. pilulæ No.
cxx, quarum sumat j vel ij octava
quaque hora.

These are proper in acute rheu-
matism, pleurisy, peripneumony, or
in any membranous inflammation,
with saline antiphlogistics, cam-
phor, &c.

NO. 37. PILULA CALOMELANOS
OPIATA CUM ANTIMONIO.

R^x Calomel. ppt. ʒij,
Pulv. Jacobi vel antimonialis ʒij,
... opii ʒij,
Sacchar. alb. ʒij. M. accuratissime,
deinde adde mucilag. gum. arab. q.
s. f. pilulæ No. clx, quarum sumat j
vel ij sexta vel octava quaque hora,
vel omni nocte.

These are proper in chronic rheu-
matism, without difficulty of breath-
ing, &c. and in some complicated
venereal cases.

NO. 38. PULVIS CUM CALOMELANO
ET ANTIMONIO TARTARISATO.

R^x Calomel. ppt. gr. iv,

Antimon.

Antinon. tartarifat. gr. viij,

Sacchar. alb. 3*fl.* M. accurate f. pulvis, dividendus in xxiv partes, quarum sumat j vel ij sexta vel octava quaque hora, superbibendo haustum sequentem:

R Amydal. decort. No. ij,

Camphor. gr. viij,

Sacch. alb. 3*fl.* Contere bene; deinde adde gradatim

Aq. pur. 3ij,

Salis nitr. 3*fl.* vel 3*fl.*; f. haustus.

These two last prescriptions are very powerful, and proper in dangerous pleurisies, peripneumony, paraphrenitis, and such like cases, that require prompt and efficacious assistance, lest they prove fatal. Salutary perspiration is speedily promoted, by determining the fluids copiously through the skin, and internal surface of the bronchial canals, &c. ; a cause-removing expectoration is soon obtained, and inflammation diminished; by which the vital organs are liberated from the impending danger of those complaints, in conjunction with previous and repeated bleedings (according to state of blood and violence of symptoms): laxatives, blisters, warm bathings, &c. are likewise not to be omitted. It is an additional force, on well-known practice. It is likewise a prompt mode, with venæfæction, of removing the most violent inflammations of the testicles, by resolution, joined with previous aperients and nitrous fomentations, lying in bed, &c.

In violent and acute rheumatisms of robust persons, to soldiers and

sailors in the vigour and prime of life, these modes of treatment are appropriate. The energy of medicine should always be proportioned to the danger of cases and force of disease. Plugged up as the bronchial vessels are, in some of those cases threatening suffocation, from the great load of inspissated mucus constantly accumulating, from the effects of very cold air in the depth of winter, with dyspnœa and frequently orthopnœa, from impeded circulation in the lungs, &c. destruction, inevitable destruction, flares medicine in the face; nor will it be averted by the slow movements of *vis medicatrix naturæ*. It is the time to act, as in putrid diseases, not to wait on the feeble efforts of dame Nature to cure the disease. Whoever expects miracles will be punished with death for his credulity; but spirited practice should always be tempered with caution.

NO. 39. PILULA HYDRARGYRI CALCINATI.

R Hydrargyri calcinati (Merc. calcinat. bene præparati) 3*j.*

Sacchar. alb. 3*fl.* M.

Confect. opiat. q. f. f. pilulæ No. cxx, quarum capiat ij vel iij mane et nocte.

Instead of Saccharum, to divide the powerful and active mercurial particles, Pulvis opii may be used, which prevents the remedy acting on the canal of the intestines. This was a favourite remedy of the late Dr. Hugh Smith, of Blackfriars, and it is certainly efficacious in primary,

mary, but not to be depended on in secondary affections without frictions.

NO. 40. PILULA HYDRARGYRI VITRIOLATI.

R Hydrargyri vitriolat. (Turbith. min.) 3*fl.*,

Pulv. opii 3*fl.*,

Sacchar. alb. gr. xv. M. accuratis-
lime, deinde adde Confect. opiat. q.
f. f. pilulæ No. ix, quarum sumat j
mane et nocte, vel ter de die.

This is a very powerful remedy, and used by many as a great secret, in venereal cases. It is apt to nauseate the stomach; but in robust habits, robust remedies are sometimes expedient.

NO. 41. PILULA HYDRARGYRI CALCINATI CAMPHORATA.

R Hydrarg. calcinat. 3*fl.*,

Pulv. camphor. 3*ij*,

... opii 3*fl.* Contere bene, de-

inde adde Confect. opiat. q. f. f. pilulæ
No. cxx, quarum sumat ij, iiij, vel
iv mane et nocte.

This is likewise a powerful anti-
venereal, and proper in dry skins,
&c.

NO. 42. PILULA HYDRARGYRI VITRIOLATI CAMPHORATA.

R Hydrargyri vitriolat. 3*fl.*,

Pulv. camphor. 3*ij*,

... opii 3*fl.* Contere bene, de-
inde adde Confect. opiat. q. f. f.
pilulæ No. cxx, quarum sumat j vel
ij ter de die.

Camphor admirably corrects the
more violent properties of mercury
in these latter formed pills, which
are very efficacious in all primary
affections. By thus dispersing, like-
wise, the very active particles of
mercury, the mercurial effects are
softer and more certain, even in
chronic cases.

ALTERANTIA MINERALIA.

MINERAL alteratives, strictly speaking, are generally combinations of sulphureous preparations with mercury, which act on the human constitution without exciting any very sensible evacuation, and yet remove many diseases incurable by any other methods.

Though mercurials given in the small and mild doses I have ever recommended, may be considered alteratives; yet they are more likely, from cold or accident, to excite purging, ptyalism, &c. than those which are introduced in the following *formula*, which ought never to excite vomiting, purging, salivation, or even profuse sweating. Their utmost limits of action should be to penetrate the minutest systems, and never apparently to stimulate more than by increasing insensible perspiration.

Though the present *formula* is calculated for the *lues venerea* as a powerful and safe auxiliary, generally in conjunction with mercurial frictions; yet the prescriptions have been known to eradicate many

symptoms of that disorder alone. When it has been necessary to suspend the use of mercury, either because it acted too powerfully on the salivary glands, or on the constitution in general of delicate patients, alteratives become excellent substitutes.

The mineral alteratives are very useful, likewise, if *well prepared* and long *continued*, in most *chronic diseases*; they are what I have always prescribed as powerful agents, acting by imperceptible degrees, in gout, chronic rheumatisms between the paroxysms, scirrhosities of the liver, spleen, lymphatic glands, scrophula or king's evil, indurations, callosities, or in inspissated or coagulated fluids of any parts, scirrhoue breasts, whether arising from lying-in, or from occult cancerous induration, in ulcers of the legs, or womb, whether cancerous or arising from venereal causes; in all chronic eruptions difficult of cure; in locked jaw, palsies, in various species of blindness, as gutta serena, cataract, and opacities of the cornea, &c. joined with camphor, nitre, and other remedies; in dropsies, and, in short, in all obscure, deep-seated, chronic diseases, which resist the accustomed remedies. Obstinate diseases are thus sometimes cured *.

The chief use intended at present of these compositions, is in cases of *complicated lues venerea*; whether it be with scrophula, scurvy, cancerous affections, or leprosy, &c. The mineral alteratives are likewise excellent as powerful auxiliaries in all venereal eruptions; but it must be observed, though they apparently remove many symptoms, yet they should not be entirely depended on in venereal affections, without the junction of mild frictions. How they operate, would require a longer treatise to explain than the present; but those who are best acquainted with the minute functions of the exhalent, inhalent, and lymphatic

* See my Treatises on the Gout, nervous and biliary Diseases from hardened or scirrhoue Liver, Jaundice, scirrhoue and cancerous Breasts and Womb, old Ulcers of the Legs and other Parts. See Tetanus, and six cases cured of the *locked jaw*, five of which came into the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary, and were perfectly cured by the alterative pills, camphor, &c. likewise in Observations on the putrid, yellow, and other Fevers of hot Climates, in the Medical Advice to the Army and Navy, which was presented to his present Majesty, at the levée, 1776; wherein scirrhoue livers of hot climates are considered. In the Treatise, volume the third, of the Rational Practice of Physic, are one hundred and eighteen diseases and operations of the eyes considered, and some successfully treated, in many cases, by mineral alteratives, &c. Many palsies have been cured at the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary by the same means, &c. See the Treatise on swelled Legs, Dropsies, retarding the Decay of the Constitution, and on the Necessity of encouraging the Study of Anatomy; addressed and sent to every noble member of Lords and Commons, &c. &c.

systems, and all the experiments of *Abraham Kaarw*, and others, *de perspirabili externa et interna*, will easily perceive how they act on the human body. If they likewise read with attention what is advanced in *Schola Medicinæ*, volume the second, on this and similar subjects, and well consider that the *tela cellulosa* forms almost every part of the body, and that the cells, large or most minute, universally communicate, which has been irrefutably proved by *Haller* and others, with the external and internal continual insensible perspiration, and irroration of vapours, fluids, and the sensible action of odorous sulphurs, garlic, onion, camphor, turpentine, &c. through the minutest oscula of exhalent arteries, &c. their inquiries may be rewarded with a gratifying satisfaction; but this is the time to act practically, not to speculate *.

The mineral alterative plan of treating many chronic diseases, it appears, is little understood, even by the most learned, in other respects, of the profession. Though the remedies have been successfully prescribed above thirty years, and the prescriptions published in various parts of the Rational Practice of Physic, for that period, in the most open manner; in short, all that has been known or observed, has been already sincerely, and without the least disguise, communicated; yet it has happened that the remedies have not been so universally applied as it was hoped, and their great efficacy merited. Mankind, therefore, have not received the important benefits intended. Pride and envy, ignorance and illiberality, have too often interposed their pernicious officiousness to the injury of society, and have frequently prevented the salutary use of alteratives in the most important cases of disease. This fact, and the parties who formed illiberal cabals against what they would not comprehend, are well known to the profession; but the trifling opinions of little minds and less science were always disregarded by the author. Engaged as he has been, and it is well known, through life, in a continual and industrious endeavour to improve the healing art, a love of peace and harmony, and the diligent attendance of extensive practice, did not afford time to listen to the detracting underhand whispers of calumny, nor to the more daring violations of honour and integrity, concerted, without reason or any regard to truth, by the activity of malevolence, inveteracy of malice, or gross errors and perverseness of ignorance †.

* In the intended third volume of *Schola Medicinæ*, containing the rationale and practice of all the branches of medicine, founded on the truths advanced in the two volumes already published, I may more elaborately explain the operation of alteratives from the numerous facts in my possession.

† It has been insinuated, that though extraordinary cures were sometimes performed (for facts cannot be denied), yet it could not have been by the methods the author published; for other practitioners used the same remedies,

dies, and failed. In answer to the illiberal assertion, that the author used any other methods than those communicated, it is in the most solemn manner denied. The remedies prescribed having been prepared by many eminent apothecaries in this metropolis, who attended conjointly the patients, and who were witnesses to the success, sometimes in scirrrous breast, ulcerated womb, venereal cases, &c. &c. they are ready and willing to refute that untruth, so injurious to society and the feelings of humanity. In the *formula medicamentorum* in public use at the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary, where the author has been physician many years, all the alterative remedies have been introduced from the time he entered on that important office, and success, as is well known in many instances, proved the rectitude and veracity of the doctrines advanced. In answer to the same remedies having been used without success; practitioners might have been often disappointed from want of accuracy in the preparations, or owing to adulterations; or from not rubbing the compositions the length of time prescribed, they must have been frequently administered without success, particularly in cancerous cases. Nothing but an ignorance of anatomy, physiology, and pathology, could suppose any means devised by man capable of curing certain stages of cancer. If the authors of underhand detraction will look into the Treatise on cancerous Diseases, and the Letters, published in 1773, on medical Vanity, and against Hemlock, in volume the first of the Rational Practice of Physic, they will find that work rather calculated to show the *impossibility* of curing cancerous cases from anatomical reasoning, except in the first stages; though sometimes it has happened, that very desperate cases have been cured, and in many instances the ravaging and frightful disease has been greatly relieved, and retarded in its progress. That treatise was written as an improvement in the treatment of breast and womb cases, &c. to prevent the dangerous imposture of pretenders to the cure of cancers; which, while it often destroys the afflicted, is a disgrace to the profession to suffer. One of the concluding paragraphs of the work is as follows; after industriously investigating and enumerating all that has been done in cancers for above *two thousand years*, it is said, "The learned reader will perceive, that the modes of treatment I have adopted and communicated are *NEW*; and, if they snatch, now and then, an unfortunate victim from death, or even palliate the symptoms of the incurable, it will not only requite the author for his unremitting researches, but perhaps point out new paths to other abler practitioners, and promote a spirit of emulation for accomplishing future improvements."

This is a proof positive, that instead of pretending to cure cancer, as some, regardless of truth, have asserted, the reverse is announced, and reasons for the causes of difficulty and impossibility of cure, under certain circumstances, are fully explained. No part of the work holds out *false hopes* to the afflicted, or *irrational expectations* of cure to the professional inexperienced. The whole writing is calculated to decry all violent, and recommend mild practices; to caution mankind against the deluding boastings and fallacious promises of daring and ignorant empiricism; and to inculcate the necessity of the patients' submission in bearing temporary inconvenience,

rather

rather than fly inconsiderately, and believe in the glaring impossibilities, which generally excite additional excruciating pain, permanent misery, and finally terminate in certain and inevitable destruction. Every sentence in the book has been the result of accurate observation and long experience, and tends to show in the clearest manner, that no *opprobrium* is attached to the art of medicine, or practitioners, for not being able to cure several species of cancer, &c. which knaves and deceivers pretend to, and honourable men avoid promising. Similar sentiments and reasonings will be found in the Treatise on Gout and many other diseases. The first thing a physician has to do, is to comprehend clearly what is practically probable or possible, and the best mode of applying medicine; and, secondly, to as well understand what is impracticable or impossible, and the *rationale* of both. Such acquisitions are the ultimate result of long study and experience, guided by sound sense and integrity; and distinguish true learning and science from hypothesis, unreasonable expectation, and ignorance.

Another palpable error, which many practitioners have fallen into, is a supposition that mercurials and antimonial sulphurs, combined even by long trituration (for on this their efficacy greatly depends), were not dissimilar to mercury alone. When they have seen from a quarter of a grain to a grain of calomel, &c. united with an equal quantity of *truly prepared kermes mineral*, or *sulphur auratum antimonii* (now called sulphur antimonii *præcipitatum*), they have expressed their surprise and fears, when it has been proposed to give such doses three or four times a day, with the *pulvis alterans purificans*, in doses from twenty to thirty grains, with camphor mixtures, or solutions, in cancerous, scrophulous, or complicated venereal cases. This apprehension must have entirely arisen, either from not knowing the nature of these compositions, or from not having seen them administered. When these substances are truly prepared, and the articles obtained from Apothecaries' Hall (and none other should be depended on), their action in the human body is quite different to mercury in any form alone; and abundance of experience proves, in many thousands of instances, that, to produce salutary effects, they should be given every six or eight hours in the day. Dose should succeed dose uniformly, that the mild action of one should scarcely expire before another continually succeeds, and a very strict regimen should be observed. In this mode of prescribing consists the whole efficacy of the alterative plan. Mercury is corrected, and its salivant properties destroyed by antimonial sulphurs; the preparation is no longer to be considered mercurial nor antimonial, strictly speaking, but a neutralized medicine, containing the general properties of both those generous minerals. Though these compositions rarely excite any commotion in the human body, if just doses be ascertained, according to cases, circumstances, and constitutions, and by warm clothing and prudent precautions, cold be avoided in this changeable climate; yet in some very rare instances, nausea and other effects have been observed, contrary to their intentions as alteratives; to prevent which, it is an excellent method to take them after breakfast, dinner, and supper, and always to avoid acids, fruits, vegetables, salads, &c. during the whole time of their administration;

nistration ; lest the particles of the compositions be so thoroughly decomposed as to defeat all their alterative intentions.

The formula commences with the mildest, and finishes with the most powerful mineral alteratives.

NO. 43. HYDRARGYRUS SULPHURATUS NIGER, VEL *ÆTHIOPS MINERALIS* ROWLEII.

R Sulphuris præcipitati (Laet. sulphuris),

Hydrargyri purificati, $\frac{aa}{aa}$ lbj.

Misceantur intime in mortario vitro vel lapideo cum pistillo simili, aut ligneo mundo, donec mercurius disparuerit.

This *æthiops mineralis* is superior to the common of the shops. It is one of the mildest alteratives, and enters the composition of pulvis alterans purificans. It is not inert and inactive, as some have imagined, and is adapted for delicate constitutions, and is useful in fumigations ; but care must be taken to have it always prepared by trituration.

NO. 44. HYDRARGYRUS SULPHURATUS RUBER, VEL CINNABAR FACTITIUM.

The cinnabar is similar in its properties to the *æthiops* mineral ; but rather more powerful. Its use is a mild alterative with or without nitre, camphor, or pulvis e tragacanth. compositus ; but with these ingredients it is a useful remedy in the *gonorrhœa*, or *urethritis venerea*, particularly in those peculiar habits wherein more active remedies are contraindicated. It is likewise proper when the use of mercury is suspended from various causes. A

dram or dram and a half, applied twice a day, is very excellent in promoting the cure of venereal ulcers of the throat or nose, in the form of a fumigation ; and thus exhibited it has cured the lues, but it is with difficulty some bear these fumes, especially if the lungs be very irritable.

Æthiops mineral, applied externally, purifies sordid venereal ulcers, and mixed with sugar and often put on the tongue, and gradually swallowed, cures venereal ulcers of the mouth, throat, and fauces, and is an useful substitute where fumigation is contraindicated.

NO. 45. PILULÆ ALTERANTES MITIORES.

R Pulveris alterantis mitioris Rowleii 3j,

Confect. opiat. q. f. f. pilulæ No. Ix, quarum j vel ij ter vel quater de die.

This is the lightest alterative after *æthiops*.

NO. 46. PILULÆ ALTERANTES FORTIORES.

R Pulveris alterantis fortioris Rowleii 5j,

Confect. opiat. vel Damocratis q. f. f. pilulæ No. Ix, quarum sumat j ter vel quater de die cum regimine, sine omnibus acidis.

It is necessary in very delicate habits to begin with half-grain pills, and gradually increase the dose to

one or two grains, according to the state of the stomach. This is not Plummer's pill, as some have imagined, but very similar. It is efficacious in many chronic diseases, in recent induration of the breasts after lying-in, or in recent cancerous affections. Numerous instances of its efficacy are well known to several of the profession. It may be used in cases where mercury cannot be exhibited, and in most complicated venereal affections, &c. &c.

NO. 47. PILULÆ ALTERANTES
FORTISSIMÆ.

℞ Pulveris alterantis fortissimi Rowleii ʒj,
Confect. opiat. vel Democrat. q.
f. f. pilulæ No. ix, quarum sumat j ter de die cum regimine, sine omnibus acidis.

These pills are powerful in cutaneous venereal eruptions, in glandular or other indurations and callosities, and are useful auxiliaries in venereal complicated cases. Both this and the last are useful in scirrhouſ liver, so common in hot climates, and in a variety of chronic complaints; but in actual venereal cases light distant frictions should be added.

NO. 48. PILULÆ ALTERANTES
MERCURII CALCINATI.

℞ Hydrargyri calcinati (Merc. calcinat.)

Sulphuris antimonii præcipitati, $\frac{1}{2}$ ʒj. Contere bene in mortario lapideo vel vitreo; f. pulvis.

℞ Hujus pulvéris ʒj,
Confect. opiat. vel Democrat. q.

f. f. pilulæ No. ix, quarum sumat j ter vel quater de die cum regimine, et sine acidis.

If any of the foregoing pills should occasion a laxness of the intestines, which they seldom do unless the patients eat vegetables, fruits, or use acids in salads or other foods, which are always improper in these mercurial courses, a little *tinctura qui* may be given in mist. camphorat. Camphor may likewise be added to the pills, or taken in any other form, particularly in dry skins.

NO. 49. PULVIS ALTERANS PURI-
FICANS.

℞ Pulveris salis nitri purissimi, $\frac{1}{2}$ ʒj
Æthiopis mineralis Rowleii, $\frac{1}{2}$ ʒj
lb. ʒj.

Contere bene in mortario lapideo, f. pulvis.

℞ Hujus pulveris ʒj, dividend. in x partes, quarum capiat j ter vel quater de die in coch. ij aquæ hord. vel mist. camphorat.

This, in conjunction with pilulæ alterantes fortiores, is what I have generally prescribed in glandular indurations of the breasts, and in ulcerous womb cases. An extraordinary instance of success is given in the Letter against Hemlock in vol. i. of the Rational Practice of Physic. This powder has cured, in rather larger doses, ulcers of the internal surface of the rectum, piles, &c. without pills.

NO. 50. PULVIS ALTERANS ANTA-
CIDUS.

℞ Magnes. alb. ʒj,
Hydrarg. sulph. rub. ʒiij. M. dosis
Dj ad ʒj.

This and most of the other prescriptions are amongst my Formula Medicamentorum, written for that excellent institution, the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary.

The pulvis alterans antacidus is chiefly for children, as a corrector of acidity and light alterative; it may likewise be useful for adults in larger doses.

NO. 51. PULVIS ALTERANS CINNABARIS NITROSUS.

Rx Hydrargyri sulphurati rubris (cinnab.) 3vj,

Pulveris salis nitri purissimi,
— e tragacanth. c. aa 3ij. M.
f. pulvis, dividendus in xvj dosis,
quarum capiat j ter vel quater de die
in coch. iij aquæ puræ, vel mixturæ
camphoratæ.

This is useful in urethritis venea, or in many cases where a light and mild alterative is necessary. Both this and the pulvis alterans purificans have cured inveterate ulcers of the legs, &c. in many instances, and, joined with pilulæ alterantes and fumigation, they have removed callosities of the perinæum, fistulous ulcers, &c.

NO. 52. PULVIS ALTERANS CINNABARIS.

Rx Cinnabaris fact.

Pulveris e tragacanth. c. aa 3S.
M. f. pulvis dividendus in xvj partes,
quarum sumat j ter vel quater de die
in coch. iij aquæ.

This is a light alterative, and adapted to the use of pregnant women, children, and persons of delicate constitutions. It is proper when the use of mercury is suspend-

ed, and is useful in various eruptions not of an inveterate nature.

All alteratives should be continued many months.

NO. 54. PULVIS ALTERANS ANTIMONIALIS.

Rx Antimon. crudi benè ppt. 3S,
dividend. in xvj partes, quarum
sumat j bis vel ter in die cum aliquo
syrupo.

With or without nitre this powder is proper when mercury has acted too powerfully on the salivary glands, to restrain its force.

Flores, or lac sulphur. are likewise proper under similar circumstances, magnesia, &c.

NO. 55. PULVIS ALTERANS ANTIMONIALIS NITROSUS.

Rx Antimon. crud. benè ppt. 3S,
Sacchar. alb.

Pulveris nitri purissimi,
— e tragacanth. c. aa 3ij.
M. f. pulvis dividendus in xvj partes,
quarum capiat j ter vel quater de die
in coch. iij aquæ hordeatae.

This is similar in use to the former, and more adapted to inflammatory habits. It is likewise useful as an alterative and purifier in many cutaneous affections.

NO. 56. PULVIS ALTERANS MITIOR ROWLEII.

Rx Argenti vivi depuratissimi 3ij,
Sulph. antimon. præcip. 3vj.
Contere benè, donec mercurius
disparuerit, f. pulvis.

NO. 57. PULVIS ALTERANS MITIOR ROWLEII.

Rx Merc. dulcis sexies sub. præparat. trituratione cum aqua repetita,
Sulph.

Sulph. antimon. præcipitat. $\frac{aa}{3}$ ij.
Contere bene xx quatuor horis in
mortario vitreo, f. pulvis.

NO. 58. PULVIS ALTERANS FOR-
TISSIMUS ROWLEII.

R Hydrarg. vitriolat. (Turbith.
min.) 3ij,

Sulph. antimon. præcipitat. $\frac{3}{5}$ S.
M. accuratissime, diu terendo in
mortario vitreo, f. pulvis.

These powders should always be composed of the preparations from Apothecaries' Hall; for none other can be depended on. The adulterations and sophistications of medicines will be hereafter fully considered and exposed in the third volume of Schola Medicinæ, where the black catalogue, and the means of detection, will appear in parallel columns, in the manner the physiology, scholia, &c. and pathology, are arranged in the second volume of Schola Medicinæ. The best intentions, and the most skilful prescriptions of the physician, may be defeated by ill-prepared remedies; therefore, those gentlemen who have all their chemical and mineral preparations from the Hall are most worthy of confidence.

Another remark is necessary. Unless the *trituration* of the alternative powders be long continued, the intimate union of the sulphureous antimonial with the hydrargyric particles will not be complete, and the remedy, consequently, will not be an alterative. The criterion, that the medicine in general is well prepared, is, that it has no sensible

action on the human frame, which likewise determines the proper dose. Medicine ought to be always adjusted more to the patient's feelings than to any preconceived opinion of certain doses, which must ever vary in practice, as every skilful physician well knows.

The next preparation is one of the most important inventions in the healing art for various purposes of venereal infection; it is *mercurius corrosivus sublimatus*, now called *hydrargyrum muriatum*; the former is the most proper name, because it may make practitioners reflect a little on the power of the medicine, before they prescribe. This preparation has been applauded, suspected, and in some instances condemned by those who have not been particularly exact as to its *preparation*, or who have given it in too large doses; but the most improper and most dangerous form of giving this medicine has been in *pills*; and it is with concern I see such an able and learned physician as the justly celebrated *Plenck*, of Vienna, venture to give corrosive sublimate in any form except in solution.

The least negligence in the preparer of corrosive sublimate pills, instead of curing, may prove fatal to the patient; and certainly no sage nor humane physician will risk the reputation of the art in promoting hazardous practices, that may be safely prevented by changing the mere form of the prescription.

It has been known that one grain
12 taken

taken into the stomach, in the form of a pill, or undissolved, has corroded the stomach, and proved fatal; and I had lately an instance where an ignorant person threw in two or three grains of corrosive, instead of dissolving it by rubbing in a glass mortar with the liquid, and it nearly destroyed the patient: I saved his life by giving him diluted volatile alkali. On inspection after death, the stomach has been found violently inflamed, and ulcerated in the spot where it was reasonably supposed the corrosive sublimate acted. If an accident of this sort happen, volatile alkali and water soon convert it into a precipitate, only productive of nausea or vomiting.

It is necessary to apprise practitioners, again, that they cannot be too cautious in being perfectly sure of the exact preparation of this medicine; for it has been known, and proved, that some of the cunning chemical artificers, abroad and in England, to increase their profit, in the wholesale way, have united and sublimed *arsenic* with this preparation. The punishment of death is too favourable for these unfeeling preparers of such destructive materials; but it is said, with great regret, that many other mercurial and antimonial remedies are equally adulterated, from similar motives.

The laws hitherto invented have not been adequate to the iniquity, and nothing but the dread of capital punishment, or perpetual banishment and confiscation of property,

would awaken the barbarous operators, venders of such strong poisons, to a sense of their moral duties; but this must be left to the wisdom of the legislature, some honourable member of which may interpose, rise up, and put an end to these nefarious and abominable practices, as well as many others of greater notoriety in the articles of diet, particularly in bread, beer, spirits; which latter, instead of strengthening, prey upon the vitals of the industrious poor, and produce weakened habits and premature death. Commerce is the very soul of Great Britain: but medical and dietetic articles of traffic should not be suffered to injure or destroy the constitutions of human beings in any country.

The *mercurius corrosivus sublimate*, now *hydrargyrus muriatus*, given in the usual doses, has disappointed the expectations of the faculty, as well as the mal-preparation of the remedy. Some have reported, that it will not cure a confirmed lues, so that the cure shall remain permanent; others have observed, that it occasions nausea, vomiting, and purging; and thus its mercurial intentions are defeated.

These observations may be true, some of which I have been witness to. The chief causes of these effects have either arisen from too great doses of the *mercurius corrosivus sublimate*, or from its sophisticated preparation. In order to preserve the use of so valuable a medicine, and having seen its excellent antiven-

real effects between thirty and forty years ago, as prescribed by Van Swieten, who gave too large doses, even for robust soldiers or sailors; I diminished the dose, and united it in aqueous solution of camphor with *tartarum emeticum*, now called *antimonium tartaratum*. I never gave above the sixteenth, twelfth, or eighth of a grain of each, always dissolved and diluted, so that it never disturbs the stomach with nausea, nor irritates the intestines. The antimonial adds to its penetrating powers, and, thus administered, it is exceedingly efficacious in promptly removing chancres, venereal ulcers of the throat, nose, palate, nocturnal pains in the bones, and most violent venereal symptoms, old ulcers of the urethra occasioning gleets, and, in short, in every species of lues venerea.

Other prescribers have given from a quarter of a grain to a whole grain, once or twice in the day; few stomachs will bear these dangerous doses: but nearly the same remedy, administered in my mode, has excellent effects, without in the least disturbing the constitution.

Numerous practitioners in this metropolis, who have prepared the remedy from my prescription, have seen the excellent antivenereal effects of the *mercurius corrosivus sublimatus*, joined with *tartarum emeticum* and camphor, in the following forms:

NO. 59. SOLUTIO MERCURII CORROSIVI SUBLIMATI ANTIMONIALIS MITIOR.

R_x Mercur. corrosiv. sublimat.

Tart. emet. $\frac{aa}{2}$ gr. j. Solve in mist. camphorat. $\frac{3}{4}$ viij, accurate terendo in mortario vitro cum simili pistillo, sensim addendo mist. camphorat. f. solutio, cuius sumat $\frac{3}{4}$ fl. (a wooden table spoonful), ter de die in coch. iv infus. sassafras.

This first prescription contains the sixteenth of a grain of each of the materials in a dose. A wooden spoon is recommended, because all metallic substances would be improper; a glass measure however would be much better, and, as exactness is necessary, it might be safest to order the remedy in a draught.

NO. 60.

R_x Solutionis mercur. corrosiv. sublimat. antimonialis mitioris $\frac{3}{4}$ fl. exaete,

Mist. camphorat. $\frac{3}{4}$ fl. M. f. haustus bis vel ter de die sumendus.

If the patient may be supposed to well bear the eighth of a grain, two or three times a-day; then the following form may be administered.

NO. 61. SOLUTIO MERCURII CORROSIVI ANTIMONIALIS FORTIOR.

R_x Mercur. corros. sub.

Tart. emet. $\frac{aa}{2}$ gr. ij. Solve in mistur. camphorat. $\frac{3}{4}$ viij, terendo in mortario vitro, cum simili pistillo, sensim addendo mist. camphorat. f. accuratissime, solutio.

NO. 62.

R_x Hujus solutionis $\frac{3}{4}$ fl.,
Spt. lavend. c. $\frac{3}{4}$ j,
Mist. camphorat. $\frac{3}{4}$ fl. F. haustus, mane et nocte sumendus.

The

The solution may be taken in Tassafraſ tea, decoctum lignorum, farsaparilla, or Lisbon diet-drink, according to the will of the prescriber. The main force of medicine is in the solution, and whatever it may be diluted with is only intended to divide and disperse its active particles (so that it may act insensibly on the stomach), and to disguise its taste.

Those, who would give the mercurius corrosivus alone, may use the following form:

NO. 63.

R Mercur. corrosiv. sub. gr. ij. Solve in mist. camphorat. ʒvijj, tērēdo in mortario vitreo, sensim addendo misturam camphoratam, f. solutio perfectissima.

NO. 64.

R Hujus solutionis ʒij,
Decoct. farsaparillæ ʒij. F. hauf-
tus, mane et nocte, vel ter de die
sumendum.

MORE POWERFUL.

R Hujus solutionis ʒij,
Decoct. farsaparillæ ʒij. F. hauf-
tus mane et nocte, vel ter de die
sumendum.

In irritable intestines opiates may be added; but it must be observed, that all mercurial courses are apt to act on the stomach or intestinal canal, whether frictional alone, or alterative courses, be adopted.

Conjointly with these solutions, in all chronic venereal affections, I recommend mercurial frictions two

or three times a week; but seldom to affect the mouth, or very slightly so. When the mercurial halitus is perceived, which is well known to all experienced practitioners, it is advisable to slacken the use of the remedies by diminishing the doses, or, for a few days, wholly to decline them, and use an aperient. Many of the extraordinary cures by *Ward's White Draught* were performed by a similar plan. That subtle empiric gave his drop three evenings in succession, and then rested three evenings: that preparation and a number of others, by which, as secrets, puffed off in newspapers, the artists have accumulated immense wealth, are similar to the solutions just prescribed, or to the pills with turbid mineral, calcined mercury, &c. or are solutions of mercury in nitrous acid, diluted. It is a fact, not to be denied, that great cures have been performed by the mild alterative methods which quacks have adopted, and which regular practitioners have neglected or despised. The whole secret consists in giving such small doses of mercurials, &c. as never to affect the mouth, nor create any violent action in the habit. Let regular practitioners take this hint, apply such plans with their superior judgment in practice, and empiricism, often so injurious to society, through want of discrimination, would be chased away from the face of the earth in most venereal and other cases.

In addition to the above solutions another may be introduced, which has formed the basis of the pretended vegetable syrups of empirics, which is the acidum nitrosum fumans; or Glauber's spiritus nitri fumans, or strong nitrous acid, in which *argentum vivum* is dissolved.

NO. 65. SOLUTIO HYDRARGYRI
NITRATI.

R Argent. viv. (Hydrarg. purificat.) ʒij,

Acid. nitros. fumantis ʒfl. Solve secundum artem, f. solutio.

NO. 66.

R Hujus solutionis gut. x,

Aq. distillat. flj. F. mistura..

NO. 67.

R Hujus misturæ ʒfl,

Syrupi simp. ʒijj,

Aq. pur. ʒijfl. M. f. haustus bis vel ter dæ die sumendus.

This composition I have seen used; but it must be remembered, that unless the solution of *hydrargyrus purificatus in acido nitroso* be diluted very much, it is a caustic; but, thus mixed, it is a safe and efficacious medicine, and has been long given by the pretenders of cure without mercury, to their deluded patients, mixed with syrups, &c.

These are some of the arts of chemistry, and are similar to the alchemical deceptions and pretensions of converting baser metals into gold; which, by some legerdemain trick, has been palmed upon the credulity of mankind as a fact. The University of Oxford, and the

Royal Society, have not forgotten the mysterious and successful stratagem of a Mr. Price, who obtained the degree of doctor in medicine at Oxford, and afterwards committed suicide. I knew his operator, Philip Garden, and other wild alchemists, who were always pretending to wonders, but produced nothing; all their chemical boastings, as usual, evaporated for ever *in fumo*.

Thus has been delivered the chief of all that has hitherto been observed relative to mercurials and mineral alteratives. The latter is a rich and productive field, still capable of improvable cultivation. Let the plans be applied with candour, and attention equal to that with which they are communicated, and society at large may reap the benefit. Let not preconceived opinions, hypothesis, nor radical prejudices, militate against facts established and founded on long experience. Let those who are warm advocates for mercurial frictions and powerful salivations only, not shut their eyes to truth, and suppose no other method capable of removing the *lues venerea confirmata*, but by those distressing and powerful mercurial courses; for salivations, even repeated, often fail, as every candid and experienced practitioner must have observed. In many such instances the cases are complicated, or the salivation excited has been too powerful for the disorder and the

the patient's constitution. A violent commotion is excited in the body without curing the disease, and the rough effects of mercury have produced more mischief than the lues. Different remedies cure in different countries. Plenck, of Vienna, succeeds with the simple *argentum vivum* and mucilaginous gums, &c. Van Swieten, at the same place, cured immense numbers by the solution of corrosive sublimate; and Colombier, who wrote *La Médecine Militaire*, by order of the French government, applauds, in very expressive language, the success of the same remedy, and gives many hundreds of successful instances. In this changeable climate of Great Britain, what has effectually cured the disease in other countries, has not so well succeeded; the cause of which may be attributed sometimes to the indolence, or carelessness in preparing remedies that require long trituration; as Plenck's union of hydrargyrus with mucilage of gum arabic, &c. at other times to the sudden changes of the weather closing the pores, retarding the operation of medicaments by repeated colds, &c.: for warmth promotes and cold retards the operation of mercurials, or alteratives. In hot climates, I have seen the disorder apparently removed by the heat of the weather and constant perspiration; yet, on

returning to a cold country, the venereal symptoms have reappeared; so that profuse perspiration has only suspended and checked, not eradicated, the lues venerea.

Numerous venereal cases are very often complicated with other chronic diseases, as scrophula, or diseased lymphatic vessels and glands, scurvy, leprosy, and various eruptive complaints; rheumatism, gout, &c. &c. In such instances, mercury alone and salivation often fail; but mineral alteratives cure. It should be recollect'd, that no one plan of cure is infallible. Confined practice, and contracted notions, either of the disease or its remedies, therefore, are by no means adequate to the variations of cases, constitutions, and climates. He who discriminates most accurately, and applies remedies most judiciously, will best succeed in curing all diseases.

Though many hints, observations, and admonitions, introduced, may be superfluous to the learned and experienced; yet they may prove, in several instances, of the utmost utility to those less informed junior practitioners, who have sufficient modesty and good sense to suppose they stand in need of instruction from those, whose opportunities and long practice enable them to judge of the perfections and imperfections of the art,

OTHER REMEDIES MENTIONED IN THE TREATISE.

LOTIO PENETRANS.

Rx Merc. corrosiv. sub. gr. j. Solve in aq. distillat. 3vij, terendo in mortario vitro cum simili pistillo, f. folutio.

This is useful in chronic disorders of the eyes, whether venereal or not, in gutta serena, opacities of the cornea, obstructions of the nasal duct, fistula lachrymalis, and as a tepid fomentation in those cases wherein suppressed running, &c. has caused the venereal ophthalmia. Neither the eye nor the penis, from their sensibility, can, in general, bear above a grain of the corrosive to eight ounces of water.

PENILUVIA.

Peniluvia are applications to the penis, commonly warm, in which that part is soaked or bathed.

PENILUVIUM EMOLLIENS.

Rx Flor. sambuci 3j,

Aq. bullientis 1b. F. peniluvium, peni applicandum tepidum ter vel quater de die.

Though the relaxing or emollient powers are chiefly in the warm water alone; yet the addition of the flores sambuci makes it a pleasant application in the inflammatory phymosis, and paraphymosis. Milk may be added, or milk and water answer these purposes, or even warm water.

PENILUVIUM CAMPHORATUM.

Rx Camphor. 3S,

Amygdal. decort. 3ij. Contere bene, deinde adde gradatim

Aq. pur. 1b. F. peniluvium.

This is more resolving than the former, and is useful for similar purposes; it is likewise lightly antiseptic, and is proper in ulcers of the penis that are inflamed, or have a tendency to gangrene, &c. or for keeping the penis clean in urethritis venerea.

PENILUVIUM MERCURIALE.

Rx Hydrarg. purificat. 3j,

Pulv. gum. arab. 3ij. Contere bene cum aliquot guttis aquæ puræ donec abiit in mucum perfectum; deinde, adde sensim

Aq. pur. 1b. F. peniluvium peni applicandum tepidum ter vel quater de die.

This mercurial peniluvium may be used in urethritis venerea, or in those nodes, or little knots, which may be felt in the *corpus spongiosum penis* on the under part of the urethra, in cases of clap, with or without chordee; in diseases of the urethra, and particularly of the prostate gland and perineum, arising from astringent injections, and in all cases wherein the running suddenly stops; or in those urethral ulcers that discharge purulent pus, and are difficult of cure. If half a dram of camphor be added, being first dipped in *spiritus vini rectificatus*, and rubbed and united *secundum artem* to the other ingredients, the remedy is rendered more efficacious as a resolvent, and may be called

PENILUVIUM MERCURIALE CAMPHORATUM.

These different mercurial and camphorate preparations may be used as baths in prostate and perineal diseases, in callosities and ulcers about the anus, in indurated testicles and epididymis, under which circumstances the patient may sit on a bidet, properly filled with the warm liquid. In diseases likewise of the periosteum, nodes in the arms, shins, &c. the same mercurial and camphorate remedies may be used as pediluvia, baths, fomentations, &c. as rational and useful auxiliaries to any other mode of treatment adopted; and to render them more resolvent, penetrating, and efficacious, a dram of nitre may be dissolved in each quart of the liquid, for mercurial baths, &c. Solutio hydrargyri nitrati, thirty drops to a quart of liquid or tepid water, likewise makes a very powerful solution for pediluvia. It deterges the scaly cuticula of dry skins, renders the inhalents more pervious; and its mercurial penetrating particles may be in some measure absorbed.

Whether corrosive sublimate, or the last solution, be preferred for these complaints; it should be recollect, the cutis can only bear a very small portion for the purposes of absorption; for, if the preparations be too strong, instead of absorption, they crisp up the minute lymphatic and other returning vessels, &c. contract the oscula, and inflame the skin; by which their intentions are defeated.

FOTUS RESOLVENS.

R Salis nitri 3j. Solve in infus. flor. sambuc. 1b. F. fotus.

This fomentation is useful in all inflammations without excoriation, and is proper in paraphymosis, phymosis, swelled testicles, inflamed perineum or prostate, *ante suppurationem*, and any other case of external inflammation; or as a pediluvium, bath, &c. whilst internal antiphlogistics and regimen are prescribed, for attempting the cure of inflammation by resolution. If camphor be added to this fotus, its curative intentions are augmented. Four grains of corrosive sublimate, dissolved in every quart of the above liquid, render it powerfully antivenereal, as a pediluvium, &c.

INJECTIONS, LOTIONS, LINIMENTS, UNGUENTA, &c.

Though I have rarely used injections of the desiccative or astringent kind; yet it may be proper to give some formula of those that are most useful, and least likely to do mischief.

INJECTIO DESICCANS.

R Extract. saturni Goulardi gtt. xx,

Aq. flor. sambuc. 3vij. F. injectio parum cuius applicetur ope syphonis in pruritu urethræ post gonorrhœam.

The same may be used as a lotion for the excretion that happens between the glans and prepuce, which very often is not venereal; but sometimes arises from coition

ointment with a female labouring under an acrid fluor albus. It may be applied safely in many other cases of light cuticular irritation, &c.; but for saturnine applications the celebrated Goulard may be consulted, with this caution, that palpiles have been the consequence of too free a use of the preparations of lead, called saturnine.

LOTIO VITRIOLATA ZINCATA.

R_x Zinci vitriolat. gr. viij. Solve in Aq. rosæ 3vij. F. lotio.

This is proper in ophthalmia after the inflammation has subsided, and is useful for the same purposes as the last. Vitriolic solutions, either for the eyes or urethra, should never exceed the strength of the above; lest they crisp up the very minute vessels, cause a contracted cicatrix in the urethra, and lay the foundation of future strictures.

LOTIO DETERGENS PRO ULCERIS.

R_x Hydrarg. muriat. gr. iv. Solve in aquæ flor. sambuc. 3vij. F. lotio.

This is proper to cleanse chancres and ulcers, &c.

LINIMENTUM SATURNINUM.

Extract. saturni Goulardi 3ij,
Ol. amygdal. 3xv. M. f. linimentum.

This is useful in various cuticular and other inflammations, in burns, scalds, for parts that may be chafed by friction, &c. &c.

All preparations of mercury with *aqua calcis*, though much in vogue, are hazardous, and had better be never applied.

LINIMENTUM CAMPHORATUM.

R_x Camphoræ 5ij. Solve in Ol. amygdal. 3ij. F. linimentum.

Useful in indurations of the breast of lying-in women, in painful inflammatory tumours, scirrhus, &c.; and if two drams of unguentum hydrargyri fortius be added, it becomes an useful antivenereal liniment in perineal swellings; or as a light friction for pregnant or delicate women, children, &c. and is then called linimentum camphoræ mercuriale.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI MITIUS.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI FORTIUS.

Care should be strictly taken that these unguents be accurately prepared, or the purposes of the most skilful prescriber, which has often happened, may be not only defeated, but the healing art disgraced.

UNGUENTUM MERCURIALE CAMPHORATUM.

R_x Camphor. in ol. amygd. imbutæ 3ij,

Ung. hydrarg. mit. 3ij. M. accurate terendo in mortario. F. unguentum.

This ointment is useful on various occasions; but particularly in recent tumefaction of the prostate or perineum, from the hazardous use of *astringent injections*; in swollen testicles to be added to poultices; in lymphatic indurations, or little knots observable in the urethra; in scirrhi, *not* of the cancerous kind; for there *mercury* is improper; but in cases complicated with

lues this ointment may be advantageously applied. Camphor assists in promoting the absorption of the mercury, as may be easily conceived by those who comprehend the action of terebinthnates, &c. on the absorbent system; and it prevents those *vesications* and cuticular affections, observable from mercurial unguents. Some of those effects, however, may be justly attributed to the addition of *Venice turpentine* in preparing the unguenta, to save labour, or to the addition of *balsam. sulph. terebinth.* which some artists have practised for the similar purposes of extinguishing speedily the mercurial globules.

It is best for surgeons to attend to the preparation of these unguents, and to never suffer any rancid *axungia* to be used; to take special care, that the trituration be completed, and that the *argentum vivum* be perfectly pure, as directed by the Dispensatory of our Royal College of Physicians in London. The respectable apothecaries, who have their principal remedies from Apothecaries' Hall, or who can be depended on, are most to be confided in, not only in these, but all other medicinal preparations of importance.

UNGENTUM HYDRARGYRI NI-
TRATI RUBRI.

R Hydrarg. nitrat. rub, lævigat.
3ij,

Cerat. spermat. ceti 3ij. M. f. un-
guentum.

This is proper for dressing and
promoting a discharge from chan-

creas, and most ulcers that require deterging. Instead of the ceratum album, yellow basilicon, or marsh-mallow ointment, may be used; but these last are too stimulating in general for chancres, though proper for opened buboes.

It is a dangerous practice to apply caustics to chancres; for there is great reason to conclude, from many instances, that the caustic practice, instead of destroying the local disease, has driven the minute particles of the venereal virus into the constitution, and has absolutely been productive of many of those poxes, that within these few years have appeared after such treatment; or the same has happened by calomel with aqua calcis, and such like compositions. The incongruity of these practices might be easily explained by solid reasons.

The most secure mode of treating the *chancre*, is to promote a discharge by a weak detergent wash, and by the last-mentioned or some such ointment, and to continue its use, with proper internals, until these little ulcers be perfectly healed.

If they be evil-conditioned, and not disposed to digest, and do not appear clean, with *pus laudabile*, then cinnabarine fumigations are necessary. If they be foul, flaccid, and spreading, powdered bark and camphor becomes a proper dressing, and the cortex and vitriolated zinc should be often given, according to constitution and the pressure of circumstances.

Another hazardous practice in
the

the treatment of the inflammatory stage of the phymosis or paraphymosis has been productive of mortification. This is the inconsiderate use of leeches in bad habits. Some have lost the major part of their penis, and even their lives, by this practice; others have suffered under large spreading ulcers, destroying the glans penis, &c.; others have been obliged to undergo circumcision; others have suffered from dangerous haemorrhages, which the greatest skill could with difficulty remedy. In many such cases, the physician is obliged to lose all sight of the venereal complaint, and direct his mind and practice spiritedly to the present, and highly dangerous symptoms. The whole force of medicine should be applied to prevent the spreading of the mortification, so destructive to the future happiness of the afflicted patient, if he should escape with life.

The medical world have been leech mad lately, and have done no small mischief by depending on such practice, even in some putrid-tending diseases, when more important methods of cure presented themselves. It should be remembered, that caution is necessary wherever there may be the least apprehension of gangrene; for if they be applied, they are sure of promoting it. Topical bleedings may be sometimes useful; but, if misapplied, often do irreparable injury.

As to the application of leeches to the scrotum, which is not the seat of the disease, in inflammation and induration of the testicles; a

very little anatomical and physiological reflection must demonstrate the absurdity of such a trifling practice, in so important a disease. Large bleedings, active aperients, antivenereal and nitrous baths, fomentations, emollient poultices of real linseed meal, with the linimentum camphoræ mercuriale, calomel, camphor, antimony, &c. internally, and a suspending bandage, promptly remove that complaint. It should be remembered, that swelled testicles arise, in general, from the *venereal virus* in the urethra, being stopped in its running off by *affrangent injections*, &c. and thus transferred from its original seat to the testes. When the disorder is thus energetically treated, there is less likelihood of any induration remaining in the epididymis, than by the inadequate practice too commonly adopted on the fallacious hypothetical opinions, that it is a *simple inflammation* unconnected with *venereal infection*, which, like many other wild speculations of pretended reasoners on venereal complaints, have amused the authors and influenced the credulous, but have terribly injured society.

LOTIO COSMETICA.

R Amygdal. decort. No. iv,
Mucilag. guin. arab. ʒij. Contere
benè, deinde adde sensim
Aq. flor. sambuc. ʒvijj,
Mercurii corrosiv. sublimat. gr.
vijj. Solve terendo in mortario vi-
treo cum pistillo simili. F. lotio cos-
metica.

This is an excellent lotion for those eruptions that happen in the face,
from

from surfeits or from morbid venereal causes, and are incurable by any other means. The sebaceous glands of the cheeks, in some instances, seem to be the seat of those disagreeable pimples and eruptions in the face, which in many cases become habitual. They have always been considered very difficult of cure; but with the pilulæ alterantes internally, and this lotion applied with a sponge three or four times a day, many extraordinary cures have been effected; and some amongst females, who had been long rendered miserable by those complaints, which by the fair sex are considered serious drawbacks upon beauty.

CAUSTICUM CAMPHORATUM.

R Spt. nitri fumantis Glauberi 3vj, Camphor. tritæ 3ij. Digerantur in vase probe obturato. Faæta solutione, oleum supernatans separetur.

CAUSTICUM MERCURIALE.

R Argent. viv. 3ij. Solve in acidi nitrofi fumantis 3S secundum artem in vase vitro aperto.

Either of these, applied by a sponge fixed in a quill, or reed, or by a glass pen, on different species of excrescences, warts, &c. act very powerfully in their prompt destruction. They are likewise useful on various occasions as caustics, for purposes that require great accuracy, lest adjacent parts be injured, which, in general, should be covered with defensive plasters before the caustic be applied, in many cases, for security.

PERPETUAL BLISTERS are ne-

cessary for venereal diseases of the joints, for tophs, nodes, and in thickened periosteum of bones, whilst other remedies are applied to eradicate the disease. Their continued use frequently prevents carious bones, which my long experience has fully confirmed. Whoever reflects on the universal connexion of the cellular structure, or *tela cellulosa* of the whole body, and the communication of the cells, will easily perceive how blisters, fetons, &c. act in many local complaints, accompanied or not with universal affection. It is by perpetual blisters that I have succeeded chiefly in curing a new species of watery head of infants and children, which I call *hydrocephalus medius*, and which, by numerous dissections, has been discovered. The fluid is not in the ventricles of the brain, but between the *fia mater* and *tunica arachnoidea*, and sometimes extends all down the *spucus vertebralis*. —All that has been observed on this important subject will be hereafter communicated, as innumerable infants fall victims to this obscure and fatal disease, if not timely discovered, or remedied.

PUNCTURES are sometimes necessary in the *glans penis*, *scrotum*, &c. to evacuate fluid, filling and distending the cells of the cellular structure; but these operations should be performed with the greatest circumspection and caution in depraved or debilitated habits, lest gangrene ensue.

These punctures are what I have so successfully recommended in

anasarca dropsies; but with all due caution. I have seen many gallons of water issue from a simple and single puncture of the legs, by which the bloated face and whole body have been evacuated of the dropsical serum. A remarkable instance of this sort occurred in a medical gentleman, aged seventy-five, who had previous jaundice, succeeded by hydrops thoracis, and anasarca universalis, in the most imminent danger from orthopnoea and asthma. That eminent anatomist Mr. Cruikshank performed the punctures, and, notwithstanding the advanced age of the patient, accompanied with numerous untoward circumstances, after immense quantities of water were evacuated, by the addition of tonics, preparations of scilla and hydrargyrus, &c. &c. the cure was completed, and the patient now remains perfectly well.

These punctures are not always safe; but if gangrene should happen, either in the penis, scrotum, or adjacent parts, after punctures, leeches,

or from the depraved state of the fluids, and debility of the solids; then a spirited antiseptic treatment can alone save the parts of generation, or the patient's life. Hitherto a mixed inconsistent practice has been adopted, and is even now continued, by others who are either unacquainted with the improvements published in the Rational Practice of Physic, or by those who, in opposition to all sound reasoning and the most striking facts, will not depart from their fatal prejudices. If any medical practitioner should still doubt the efficacy of the consistent practice already published, he may visit the febrile, small-pox, and other wards of the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary; and, a conviction, from innumerable facts, must establish the uniform administration of the opposing powers to devastating putrid affections, beyond the possibility of suspicion or refutation *.

In venereal cases, accompanied with putrid-tending or gangrenous

* An extraordinary instance happened some few months since. A female who came into the house, about the eighth month of pregnancy, was infected with a severe confluent small-pox. On the third day of the suppurating stage, she was delivered of a child, who had the small-pox in a state of suppuration one day later than the mother. The foetus, therefore, had gone through the stages of the small-pox in the mother's womb. The child lived some days, but died convulsed, and is preserved in spirits. The mother perfectly recovered, is now living in good health, and is another confirmation of the great utility of prescribing antiseptics in the earliest stages of putrid-tending diseases, without any regard to heat, quick pulse, &c. which are some of the rocks others continually split on, to the destruction of the human species. This patient took bark, vitriolic acid, tinctura rosarum as drink, and wine. This is the only successful mode of treating all putrid-tending diseases, now confirmed, by thousands of cases, and would be very useful in yellow fevers, which I formerly experienced, when in the West Indies, America, &c.

affections, the exact method used successfully in fevers, cannot be always applied; for that *divine acid*, the *vitriolic*, cannot always be prescribed, particularly if the stomach or intestines be irritated by mercurials, or be disposed to diarrhœa, or dysentery; symptoms not uncommon in mercurial courses. If the *vitriolic acid* and *cortex* may be prudently prescribed, they are the most efficacious; the next in force are *cortex* and *vitriolated zinc*; and, thirdly, strong solutions of *camphor* with decorticated almonds, and the learned Hoffman's *anodyne liquid*. All bleedings, vomits, relaxing sudorifics, saline, neutralized volatiles, or fossile or vegetable alkalis, with acids, are septic, incongruous, and injurious; all bitters, bracers, corroborants, wine, spirits, and vitriolics, consonant and beneficial.

MISTURA ANTISEPTICA ACIDA.

R Extract. cort. peruv. 3fls.
Solve in decoct. ejusdem 3xv,
Tinct. ejusdem 3ij,

Acid. vitriolic. dilut. 3ij. M. f.
mistura, cuius sumat coch. iij secunda,
tertia, quarta, vel sexta quaque hora
secundum violentiam morbi.

Eodem tempore, Tinctura rosarum
bibenda est pro potu ordinario, cum
vino rubro.

MISTURA ANTISEPTICA ZINCATA.

R Decoct. cort. peruv. 3xv,
Tinct. ejusdem comp. 3ij,
Zinci vitriolat. gr. iij. Solve, f.
mistura, de qua sumat coch. iij, tertia
quaque hora.

MISTURA ANTISEPTICA CAM- PHORATA.

R Camphoræ 3ij,

Amygdal. decort. 3fls,
Sacchar. alb. 3ijj. Contere bene,
deinde adde gradatim
Aq. pur. 3xv,
— cinnam. 3fls,
Liquor. anodyn. Hoff. 3fls. M.
cuius sumat coch. iij, tertia vel quar-
ta quaque hora.

To the first and second of these prescriptions, if diarrhœa succeed their use, *confectio opiana* ad 3ijj may be added, to prevent their passing too suddenly through the intestines. To the last mixture, for the same purpose, may be added from one to two drams of *Tinctura opii*.

If diarrhœa or dysentery happen during a mercurial course, or salivation; then they must be restrained by the following:

R Extract. ligni Campechens. 3ij.
Solve in Aq. cinnam. 3ijjfls,
Mist. cretaceæ 3xj,
Tinct. cardaniom. c. 3x,
— opii 3ij. M. f. mistura, de
qua capiat coch. iij pro re nata,
diarrhœa molesta; or,

R Mist. cretaceæ 3xvfls,
Confect. opiat. 3ijj,
Tinct. cinnam. 3fls. M. f. mistura.

From a bad habit, the cavernous and spongy structure of the penis sometimes mortifies, and spreads rapidly. In which instances, the depending on opium, as too commonly practised, is often the cause of the *hæs* of the penis, or the patient's life. *Opium* should never be prescribed with any other view, in mortifications, than to prevent the antiseptics passing through the intestines. The profuse application

cation and abuse of opium, lately, like many other wild conceits of the present day, were founded in erroneous principles, and have been, when misapplied, destructive to thousands. A more noble medicine than opium is not known in the whole *materia medica*; but to prescribe it merely to appease and palliate, when powerful causes ought to be removed by more appropriate and decided remedies, is to hasten an easy dissolution of the patient, without attempting the most specific means of recovery.

In spasmodic affections; as convulsions, tremors, &c. from either an over-use of mercury, or the venereal virus acting powerfully on the nervous system, camphor, musk, and bark, *assafœtida*, *valerian*, or preparations of zinc, are proper; all which complaints may be found in the second volume of the *Rational Practice of Physic*, and their proper treatment.

In venereal affections of the lungs, as cough, tubercles, ulcerated lungs, &c. oily emulsions with opiates, elixir paregoric, and squills, ammoniacum and volatiles, pil. ex *hydrargo*, e *styrace et scilla*, perpetual blisters to the *scrofululus cordis*, according to circumstances, are to be prescribed. Ulcerated lungs, and the consumption arising therefrom, are oftener fatal than curable.

HÆMORRHAGES.

Fatal hæmorrhages sometimes arise from ulcers or gangrene of the penis, in which case styptics of

powdered burnt alum, solutions of white or blue vitriol, or strong aqua vegeto-mineralis, are proper. I have checked these hæmorrhages by raising the penis, or its remains, against the *symphysis pubis*, and retaining it there by light bandage, compress, and gentle pressure, and have succeeded in checking or restraining hæmorrhages that might otherwise have become fatal.

As to the hæmorrhages arising from *cruel burning caustic bougies*, introduced up the urethra, they have lately proved highly dangerous, and even fatal. In such miserable cases the vitriolic styptics are proper; but if coagulated blood plug up the urethra, a flexible or other catheter, or bougie, gently introduced up the passage, is necessary to clear the way for the passing of the urine, which by its warmth frequently produces fresh hæmorrhage. Internally, in such cases, vitriolated zinc, bark, vitriolic acid, and such remedies, without spirituous stimulants, are useful; if the patient escape with life from the dangerous hæmorrhage. The application of fiery spirits of turpentine, as an injection, in such dangerous bleedings, which some have recommended, must have arisen entirely from forgetting the *exquisite sensibility* of the urethra, and the very pungent, heating, and stimulating qualities of such a *violent* remedy to such a tender part. It is a dangerous thing for men to write prescriptions, who seem unacquainted with the powers and qualities of

remedies; but it is to be seriously lamented, that many recent works in surgery are extremely defective in the structure of practical pre-

scription. *Basis, adjuvans, corrigens, constituens, dosis, &c.* should be well understood in all complex formulæ.

RECAPITULATION, ADMONITIONS, AND MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

ON FRICTIONS, &c.

I. THE cure of every species of venereal infection requires mercury alone, or combined with antimonial sulphurs.

II. It is necessary, for every person who undertakes the cure of venereal affections, to previously understand anatomy, physiology, pathology, and therapeutics; for without the three former it is impossible to comprehend the structure of parts, living functions of the human body, or ravages of diseases; and without the latter, it is impossible to skilfully prescribe in the variety of cases constantly occurring *. Internally, too large doses of mercurials have been administered; which it is hoped this work will correct.

III. The frictions, with unguentum hydrargyri, so as to saturate the infected body with mercury without exciting salivation, if conducted with judgment, will cure most species of venereal contagion; but in complicated cases, antimonial sulphurs may be joined, to act as alteratives.

IV. The various opinions and disputes on the nature of the venereal particles, which prove infectious, show that the disputants know nothing of its real nature.

V. The lues venerea can be received without primary local infection; but such instances rarely happen.

VI. The venereal virus may be in the system some years before it makes its appearance; but such cases do not occur so often as some believe.

VII. There are three kinds of affection. 1. *Recent*, attended with primary local symptoms. 2. *Confirmed*, when received into the habit, occasioning general contamination of the system, which soon succeeds local affection. 3. *Inveterate*, when it may have remained long in the habit without producing symptoms, or when reappearing after an imperfect cure.

VIII. The symptoms that may be judged *recent* are, the urethritis venerea, chancres or buboes, phymosis, or paraphymosis, &c. that in a few

* It is a great pleasure to find, that the plan I formed in *Schola Medicinae*, by arranging the physiology, pathology, &c. in columns, has greatly facilitated and abridged the most difficult medical studies.

days succeed coition. *Confirmed*, when the symptoms appear many weeks after the supposed reception of the infection, obstinate chancres, &c. tubercles, venereal warts, and other excrefences; sudden stoppage of the discharge from the urethra from the *imprudent use of astringents*; for, in this case, the primary local affection frequently degenerates into general disease.

IX. The urethral discharge, chancres, buboes, &c. arising a few days after coition, though apparent local affections; yet they ought to be treated with mercury, from the impossibility of being certain that the system has not received any infection.

X. The opinions of *Astruc*, *Boerhaave*, and others, that the venereal virus is becoming milder, and in time would be extinct, are erroneous, which practical facts daily prove; but there are few incurables, and even the most obstinate cases can be palliated. The difficulty of curing some arises from the debilitated state of patients, and the complication of the venereal virus with other diseases.

XI. The methods of cure adopted by the first practitioners, by purifiers, baths, deterseive liniments, sweating in ovens, by cauteries, &c. failed.

XII. Mercury was first used by *Theodore*, *Villanova*, and afterwards by *Fallopious*, *Carpus*, and *Vigo*, with many others, externally, from its known effects in cutaneous diseases.

XIII. Mercury afterwards fell into disuse from the timidity of physicians not applying it in sufficient quantity to effect a cure.

XIV. Recourse was then had to such remedies as had been employed in the islands from whence the disease had been imported into Europe, as *guaiacum*, *china root*, *sarsaparilla*, *sassafras*, and such European herbs and roots as seemed to bear the greatest analogy to those, amongst which was *mezereon*, &c. &c. They are said to have formerly cured the disease; but this is much doubted, except in hot climates: now they are prescribed as auxiliaries. They never in European climates cure the disorder; in the West Indies and America they generally fail; and, though in those climates they seem to remove symptoms, I have known many instances of these supposed cures, on returning to Europe, wherein the venereal symptoms have reappeared with redoubled violence.

XV. After the unsuccessful trial of these remedies, and the destruction of thousands, mercury was again employed, which had hitherto been considered a poison, more from its injudicious application than any other cause. At first, red precipitate, by *Mathiolus* and others; *mercurius dulcis*, *panacea mercurialis*, *aethiops mineralis*, violet mercury, turbith mineral, white precipitate, &c.; but their effects were in general too violent

lent or inefficacious to be successful, and the major part are now banished practice for internal use.

XVI. Mercurial frictions were then recommended by Fracantianus, 1564. Salivation, however, was over-excited, and the ingenuity of the contributors to alleviate human misery was employed to invent safe internal remedies. *Corrosive sublimate* was known and used by Cavalier and others, and Louis XIV. that great protector of all the liberal sciences, arts, and ingenious men, through the influence of that greatest of ministers, the immortal **COLBERT**, purchased the method of preparing *panacea mercurialis*, for the benefit of all his people and the whole world. No prince ever existed, who, on numerous occasions, so distinguished himself as that monarch, for encouraging the cultivation of science, as may be seen in numerous grand institutions for science and literature, in the city of Paris, where I formerly studied surgery, &c.

XVII. The *modus operandi* of mercury in curing venereal affections is unknown; but its application as a specific for the disease is well comprehended by the skilful. In some preparations, as by unguents, a large quantity is sometimes necessary; in others a few grains of mercury, judiciously administered, completely cure, as *mercurius corrosivus sublimatus*; now called *hydrargyrus muriatus*.

XVIII. There are four kinds of external application of mercury; by frictions, which have been most universally successful *; by plasters, which are now considered useless, unless to indurated glands, &c.; by lotions, which are not now depended on; and by fumigations of cinnabar, which, though useful in ulcers of the nose, throat, perineum, &c. are not alone sufficiently powerful to remove inveterate venereal affections.

XIX. Though salivation will in many cases cure; yet it is impracticable in delicate subjects, as they cannot bear a sufficient quantity to eradicate the disease.

XX. Salivation is unnecessary and prejudicial, except in particular cases, for it carries off the mercury suddenly, which should remain long in the habit to remove obstructions, indurations, &c. caused by the venereal virus. It is productive of violent inflammations of the face,

* Frictions were employed with different intentions: 1. To excite no sensible effect, as first published, 1512, by Almenar, and lately readopted by Chicoineau and many others. 2. To raise a salivation. 3. To promote a diarrhoea, as recommended by *Desault*. The first, without salivation; if any affection of the mouth appeared, a sulphur purge was given, as an anti-salivant, and the frictions omitted a few days. The second was adopted by Boerhaave, Astruc, and Petit. The third was effected first by frictions, and then clysters of senna decoction were administered, or jalap, &c. if necessary.

ulcers of the mouth, tongue, throat, glands, &c. which are light effects in comparison of others, as faintings, lethargy, continual fever, suffocation, loss of teeth, and rupture of the salivary ducts, dangerous haemorrhages, bloody flux, &c. which are the more lamentable from being, at times, above the reach of medicine. This violent method should therefore be exploded, although strongly recommended by Astruc, Boerhaave, and Petit, with their followers, which may be said to be the prevailing prejudice of their time rather than their own errors.

XXI. Frictions without salivation, if skilfully conducted and sufficiently long continued, extinguish the virus without any increase of the excretions, and consequently do not impair the strength of the patient, nor produce the mischiefs attendant on salivation. The addition of camphor to the unguentum is proper; but sulphur not, as it may so counteract the intentions of mercury as to prevent its efficacy. The last method, however, has succeeded. 3*j* vel 3*j*, every other night, is sufficient of the unguent. hydrarg. fort.

XXII. Bleeding, a purge first, and warm baths, are necessary, not only before, but occasionally during frictions; for by exciting free perspiration and cleansing the surface of the body, salivation is greatly impeded, and the cure facilitated, by the operation of mercury through the minutest cellular structures, exhalent arteries, minutest lymphatics, or absorbents, &c.; for, as *Hippocrates* justly says, and *Abraham Kaaw* proves, *καὶ ἐπινοοῦσιν ὅλον τὸ σῶμα.* *QUOD EXPIRANS, ET INSPIRANS, UNIVERSUM CORPUS.*

XXIII. Warmth is absolutely necessary to promote a cure; the room should be large and airy, with a fire in cool weather; and, if in an hospital, few should be in the same ward.

XXIV. As mercury increases excretion through the skin, cold is inimical, checks the necessary mild perspiration, and occasions disorders in the head. Calico under-shirts in summer, and flannel or Jersey shirts, should be worn in winter, during a mercurial course, lest sudden chills or cold retard the operation of medicine. Patients should be confined to a room, particularly the refractory, young, and inconsiderate; or the use of frictions for extinguishing the virus will be defeated. In hospital practice, likewise, it is absolutely necessary to confine patients; lest irregularities and exposure to cold counteract all curative intentions.

XXV. The moderate use of guaiacum and sassafras, in pallid languid habits, and the sarsaparilla, in decoctions, for the florid and plethoric, may assist the extinction of the disease, when attempted by friction. They may be used with or without milk, as ordinary drink, with a little liquorice-root boiled, to make them more grateful. These decoctions of woods, as they are called, united with the *solutio mercurialis antivomitorialis*,

or *losio penetrans*, in small doses, already recommended, will cure many venereal symptoms; but in important cases frictions should be added, or permanency of cure may not always be expected.

XXVI. When the mercurial *halitus* is perceived issuing from the mouth of the frictioned, by the olfactory organs of the practitioner, the body at that time is saturated, and frictions should then be omitted two or three days or more, and a laxative given. It is necessary, therefore, for the practitioner to daily visit the patient, and to be very vigilant, lest a strong salivation be excited; which will happen in some instances notwithstanding the greatest circumspection.

XXVII. If the head and face be very much swelled and painful, with inflammation of the eyes, or a fever should arise; bleeding, aperients, and saline remedies, are proper, as likewise in spitting of blood, &c. unless there be a putrid-tending diathesis; then antiseptics and tonics are to be prescribed. In spasms, opiates or narcotics should be cautiously given, as they sometimes prove hurtful and occasion delirium, &c.

XXVIII. Frictions should be continued until the chief symptoms be removed, and some time afterwards. Ulcers and caries of the bones continue longer than the use of mercury is necessary; but a proper healthy discharge from them should direct the practitioner, when to leave off the frictions, and they should be discontinued, not suddenly, but gradually.

XXIX. The sudden disappearance of ulcers and other symptoms is sometimes very deceitful; for if the remedies were then discontinued, the disease will soon reappear.

XXX. Mercury continues to act on the system even some months after the discontinuance of the frictions: its administration, therefore, is not to be carried too far. Upon an average, two or three ounces of the strong ointment is sufficient for the generality of cases; but this must always be determined by circumstances: deviations in the times of friction and kind of diet must be made, according to the habit of the patient.

XXXI. When the lues venerea be combined with sea scurvy, the latter should be first removed, before the commencement of the course, or very light antivenereal alteratives used. Frictions are not so proper in these cases as alteratives.

XXXII. The phthisis venerea, or venereal consumption, is to be treated with antivenereals; but extreme caution is necessary not to push the use of mercury too far. Plenck's solution is proper.

ON THE CURE BY FUMIGATIONS.

XXXIII. The method of curing venereal affections by cinnabarine fumigations is almost as ancient as the disease, and was known by Fallopis and Massa, who were its principal advocates: it has great power in removing

moving or changing the state of venereal and cancerous ulcers; but cannot be depended on to confirm the cure of venereal affections, though an excellent auxiliary in various cases; but not now sufficiently in use.

XXXIV. Mr. Lalouëtte has revived the practice, by avoiding some of the inconveniences that rendered fumigation hazardous and disagreeable, from its suffocating sulphureous fumes, &c. affecting the lungs, by the preparation he uses, &c.

LOTIONS.

XXXV. The lotions formerly used in the cure of lues venerea were dangerous; being composed of *corrosive sublimate* and *arsenic*: they occasioned dreadful cutaneous diseases, and even salivation; they therefore fell into disuse.

XXXVI. Baths, peniluvia, and pediluvia, of well-prepared corrosive sublimate, in the quantity of four grains to a quart of water, are very useful for diseased joints, nodes, topes, and various lymphatic and other indurations, or as fomentations, &c. in various venereal affections; or as lotions for deterring venereal or other ulcers. Lotions likewise of the *hydrargyrus gummosus* are proper for peniluvia, pediluvia, &c. in delicate constitutions.

PLASTERS.

XXXVII. Plasters of mercury, with proper compositions, as a cure, have been long abandoned, from their very limited powers: they are used now only to indurated glands, &c. &c.

MERCURIUS GUMMOSUS.

XXXVIII. This invention of uniting *argentum vivum* with gum arabic was discovered and practised by that very learned physician PLENCK, of Vienna. It cured the lues venerea, in numerous instances, in that country; but in the confirmed lues, in this island, it has not been permanently successful; but this may be attributed more to carelessness in preparing the remedy than any other cause. I have succeeded in curing numerous venereal affections, in delicate constitutions, by this method; but in order to augment its powers, one eighth or sixth of a grain of *antimonium tartaratum* (tart. emet.) gives a powerful energy to each dose. These combinations, however, have salivated, and require the same vigilance as frictions; for this *hydrargyrus gummosus* may be aptly termed an internal friction. It requires very accurate trituration, or the globules of the *argentum vivum* will not be perfectly extinguished *.

* M. De Horn says, the composition does not equal the author's commendations. M. Castel made an improvement on the method by dividing the mercury in mucilage of gum arabic; and drying the mass, reduced it into powder.

XXXIX. These preparations will perfectly cure primary affections; but in very inveterate and chronic cases, they fail in this changeable, cold climate; it is but justice, however, to the celebrated inventor, to say, that they are an additional and useful mild resource in venereal cases of delicate constitutions, women, and children, and in all cases wherein the compositions of mercury with the mineral acids are too violent.

KEYSER'S PILLS.

XL. The *dragées* of Keyser have been fairly tried for several years, both in Paris, London, and in different parts of Europe; but though in many cases they cured, yet in others, to my own knowledge, they produced dangerous effects, as salivation, purgings, relaxation of the solids, &c. In London, it was pretended that patients might pursue their ordinary business during their exhibition; and, I remember, the general rule recommended by Dr. Cooper, of John Street, was, to take a sufficient quantity to prove daily laxative, by which means nutrition was impeded, and debility promoted, and the ends of cure, in inveterate cases, prevented. This is similar to *hydrargyrus acetatus*.

XLI. The author seemed totally ignorant of chemistry, and described several processes, unnecessarily tedious, to purify mercury, which may be effected with much less trouble *.

PRESSAVIN'S MERCURIAL SALT.

XLII. The vegetable mercurial salt of M. Pressavin is similar to Keyser's, except its combination with *cremor tartar*. and its being given in solution. The pilular form is very improper in *affine solutions of mercury*, since, as hath been observed, their caustical effects are likely to injure the stomach; but the solution of Pressavin is far superior, by being diluted so as to avoid all such danger.

XLIII. The solution of mercury in vinegar is no new discovery, and may be found in *Theatrum Chemicum*, page 654, printed at Strasbourg, 1613. It is no uncommon thing for artifice or ignorance to introduce remedies as new, which have been long obsolete or in disuse. The nitric acid trick will, perhaps, prove of this nature.

XLIV. Keyser's pills, and many other such mysterious, questionable compositions, which have great reputation while they are passed off as secrets, at an immense expense, in newspapers, lose all their miraculous value when once known. All the advantages of such compositions

* Upon a review of his unscientific formula, the composition is as follows: "Du mercure révivifié, ensuite calciné, puis dissous par le vinagre, et mêlé avec la manne et la farine, pour donner la consistance requise à cette composition."—*Colombier*.

can be acquired without any hazard, by various other remedies, gentle frictions, &c. &c.

ON THE SYROP DE BELLET.

XLV. This syrup, when I was in France, many years ago, was a secret, in the hands of the author and government only. The basis, from the most accurate analysis, proved to be either pure MERCURY dissolved in the NITROUS ACID, to which is added spt. vini, or some precipitate of mercury dissolved in spt. nitri dulcis. A certain quantity of this solution is mixed with some syrup, and, when made, a table-spoonful, diluted in water, is to be taken every morning for a week; afterwards, the same quantity morning and evening, gradually increasing the dose to two table-spoonfuls, and rarely beyond, diluting it with water in proportion to the dose. Its administration was continued a fortnight after the symptoms were removed, and a purge was given at intervals:

XLVI. It was tried on several patients in the hospitals of *Brest* and *Toulon*, as the *nitric acid* has been at our naval hospitals, &c. It generally caused more or less pain in the head, sometimes uneasiness in the stomach, and purging: out of twenty patients, fifteen were apparently cured, three left the hospital, one went away not cured, one degenerated into cancer, and two died. It has since been used with various success, by persons who are no great friends to secrets.

ANTIVENEREAL CLYSTERS.

XLVII. Antivenereal clysters were invented by M. Royer, surgeon major of the camps and armies. The analysis made by M. de Horne, proves its basis to be *corrosive sublimate*, united with camphor, mucilage, and water.

OBJECTIONS.

1. Patients discharge clysters too soon for a sufficient absorption of mercury to cure lues veneréa.
2. The quantity absorbed cannot be determined; hence arises uncertainty and a tedious method of cure.

OCCASIONAL UTILITY.

Mercurial clysters may be sometimes useful, where patients cannot bear medicines on the stomach; but PLENCK's solutions, for these purposes, are much safer than mercury sublimate. Like other remedies, they should not be used indiscriminately on every patient, since a variety of methods is necessary to cure different patients, and no one plan will cure all, however well contrived.

ON CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE, OR HYDRARGYRUS MURIATUS.

XLVIII. This excellent remedy, when accurately prepared, and judiciously administered in solution, in doses, never to exceed the sixteenth, twelfth, or eighth of a grain, is the most efficacious, safe, and successful mercurial yet discovered, for speedily removing the most pressing and distressful symptoms. When joined with antimonium tartaratum (tart. emeticum) and camphor, it is rendered still more penetrating, useful, and gently diaphoretic. I have cured many hundreds of various cases by these remedies joined with fumigations; they even subdue cancers, &c.

XLIX. BOERHAAVE first, and VAN SWIETEN afterwards, recommended this mercurial salt internally: it had been prescribed a long time before that period for external use *.

L. On its first introduction, as all solutions of mercury in mineral acid were esteemed violently poisonous, various attempts were made to destroy its corrosive qualities, by uniting alkaline solutions, spirituous and oleaginous fluids, &c. Alkaline additions, however, only decomposed the mercury; a precipitate subsided, more or less active; and the remaining fluid consequently lost its antivenerereal properties. Crude sal ammoniac does not add to the efficacy of the medicine, as some have imagined.

LI. The perfect solution of corrosive sublimate, gr. xij to a pint of malt spirit, was made and recommended by Van Swieten, of which a table-spoonful was prescribed, in barley water, morning and evening, increasing the dose gradually, according to circumstances. This was given with great success, in thousands of cases, in many parts of Europe, and I gave it at Belleisle in 1761; but the spirituous medium, though it agreed well with robust soldiers and sailors, yet was injurious to particular constitutions, and occasioned violent nausea, vomitings, and sometimes diarrhœa, dysentery, &c. like turbid mineral, &c.

* Amongst others, the celebrated and learned *De Haen*, of Vienna, says, that he cured the lues venerea, in the most desperate cases, of most parts, by sublimate. He dissolved six grains of mercurius corrosivus in a pint of brandy, and gave two table-spoonfuls morning and evening, &c. He proceeds: "Imo diutinus usus hujus remedii percuravit corneam ex causa venerea ortam; sic anchyloses, illinc paralyses, variique tumores et ulcera hoc modo curabantur." Every fourth day he gave a purge. It is certain the Germans, and other people on the continent, bear larger doses than can be given here. I have seldom ventured on more than the eighth of a grain as a dose, and in very few instances, and where the stomach could bear it, above a quarter of a grain, and always dissolved and diluted. I have cured, as may be seen in the Treatise on Diseases of the Eyes, many cases of opaque cornea, by its internal and external use; but I never gave it in paralytic cases; but have cured numbers by pilule alterantes mitiores, which plan is similar, but not so powerful. See *palsy* in Rational Practice.

LIII. Four grains of the corrosive sublimate, perfectly dissolved, by rubbing in a glass mortar and pestle, in a pint of rain, river, or distilled water, or camphor julep, and given in the dose of $\frac{3}{5}$ S exactly, three times a day, diluted in sassafras tea, decoction of the woods, or sarsaparilla, could be taken without inconvenience. This is but an eighth of a grain of the remedy; but half that quantity is sufficient for delicate constitutions. This has been my method of giving it, ever since that period; for I early discovered the error of the celebrated and learned Van Swieten, and others, consisted in giving the remedy in much too large doses, which often acted violently on the stomach or intestines, without affecting the constitutional complaint. In this manner one of the most efficacious preparations, in some degree, lost its credit with regular practitioners; but empirics, by their very small doses, have cured, under the form of a secret syrup, many cases in which the learned regulars have failed.

LIII. It, thus administered, resolves buboes, relieves phymosis, paraphymosis, deters and cures chancres, venereal ulcers of the urethra, prostate, &c.; soon relieves the most excruciating nocturnal pains in the bones, &c.; yet notwithstanding its excellence and efficacy, it should not be depended on in deep-seated chronic venereal affections, without the addition of judicious frictions.

LIV. Little preparation is necessary before taking it; bleeding in plethora, and cleansing the *primæ viæ*, are previously useful; but the remedies should be continued a considerable time after the symptoms have disappeared; for though its salutary effects are rapid, they have not been, in some instances, permanent.

LV. During the exhibition of corrosive sublimate, whether joined with antimonium tartaratum, or not (which last mode is my invention), it is necessary to observe a strict regimen; the drink should be chiefly farinaceous or mucilaginous, decoction of sarsaparilla, &c. Neither wine, spirits, nor beers should be drunk, nor any thing used that may counteract or decompose the preparation: therefore, all volatiles and alkalies are improper, &c. This mode of curing several cases of venereal infection is superior to any, if the patient be obliged to be exposed to the open atmosphere; but warm clothing is always necessary, dry diet, &c.

In the French armies, for many years, this remedy has been given with extraordinary success; but the physicians commonly have ordered too large doses, or their climate is certainly more benign and salutary than this changeable, and often suddenly cold island. In the West Indies, and on the continent of America, in France, Italy, and Germany, I have seen numerous cases cured; and from the authority of M. Bercher, first physician of the hospital at Cologne, and of many of the most excellent practitioners in

Europe, it may be recommended, with the cautions and observations already enumerated *. It is a medicine that should only be used by the skilful in the art; for it should be remembered, an over-dose, as in other important medicines, may prove fatal †.

ON SECRET REMEDIES.

LVI. Every pretender to secret remedies, or nostrums, says his composition differs from others, and is the very best in the world.

LVII. Much mischief is done by quack remedies from their indiscriminate use. If they be powerful, they often do irreparable evil; if inefficacious, they can do no service. It is much to be regretted, that even some regular-bred practitioners have disguised mercury in various forms, and have become secret-mongers.

LVIII. The pretensions of M. Nicole and Velnos, in asserting their preparations contain no particles of mercury, ought not to be credited; an analysis, made by M. Marges, surgeon, of the medicines of the former, detected corrosive sublimate in the composition of the liquor, diet-drink, biscuit, and ointment of Nicole.

LIX. Agironi and Velnos pretended they had a vegetable syrup, by which they proposed to cure the venereal disease.

LX. They produced a number of proofs of its efficacy in curing private patients; but the trials made in the hospital of French guards, it seems, were less favourable, according to *Colombier*.

LXI. The mercury that enters the composition, says the erudite *Colombier*, is very small in quantity, and not easily detected. If three or four grains of corrosive sublimate, in a quart of syrup, were combined, the medicine would be very efficacious, and the mercury would not be easily discoverable.

LXII. The comparative good success of the syrup, in their own practice, exclusively, renders it more than probable, that they had some secret mode of adding the mercury. For, if the most active roots and woods, or vegetables, are insufficient to cure the lues venerea, which the

* The learned author of *La Medecine Militaire*, M. *Colombier*, mentions nine hundred cases cured, that came under his own observation, in the French military hospitals: many thousands of instances beside have made their appearance in favour of this medicine, when judiciously prepared and applied.

† I have given a case in the *Rational Practice of Physic*, where a young medical gentleman at Mr. Scarman's, then living in Bond Street, took two drams of corrosive sublimate, in its saline granulated form, and four ounces of laudanum. I saved his life by giving volatile alkali diluted in warm water, which, forming a precipitate, produced enormous vomitings, &c. and thus liberated him from the danger of the active poison.

fairest trials have proved beyond the possibility of a doubt, it follows, that a mercurial salt, as sublimate, or a solution of *argentum vivum* in nitrous acid, must be added. With regard to Velnos' syrup, there have been instances of its salivating, and, at the time I am writing this, a patient is under the care of Dr. Kennedy and myself, who has been decidedly salivated by the composition; without obtaining a cure; though now, by our joint endeavours, recovering from one of the most complicated and difficult cases that ever happened. *MUNDUS VULT DECIPI, ERGO DECIPIATUR*, say the artful promulgators of wonder-working secrets. Mankind admire the marvellous and impossible; and while persons of the highest rank, dukes, lords, and titled ladies, whose education should elevate their minds above vulgar deceptions, or gross superstition, will countenance magnetism, pretended inspirations, windy puff nonsense, and a thousand other rogueries and fooleries; it is not surprising that inferior beings, of little learning and less sense, should become the most egregious dupes to every species of artful imposture and impostors *.

NITROUS ACID.

LXIII. A miraculous discovery has lately led the medical dance through all the mazes of folly, perplexity, and credulity. *Nitrous acid* cures venereal complaints of all descriptions; thousands of cases are monthly published, and as many thousands of fabricated falsehoods believed by the credulous, and trumpeted forth through all the earth. Like the wonder-working syrup-mongers and drop-venders, the nitric acid fails under the direction of men the most eminent for skill and probity, and in all other hands except those in the secret. This, alone, is a true and convincing proof of the efficacy and veracity of the powers of *nitric acid*. There can be no doubt they use nitrous acid; but, probably owing to some little omission, they may have forgotten to apprise their acid-struck, astonished, and mortified brethren, that a little *argentum vivum* was dissolved in that very powerful acid, by which, indeed, properly diluted, it becomes a very important medicine in the hands of skilful adepts. These are not uncommon frolics amongst several famous chemists and alchemists; there are many specimens of a variety of similar tricks on record in the annals of secret chemistry. †.

LXIV.

* I remember a late learned and pious prelate, who, though remarkably sensible in other respects, was so infatuated in favour of a quack syrup, that he ran full gallop through this great town to recommend the surprising all-curing syrup; in short, the worthy dignified divine was syrup mad, and died suddenly; whether from the effects of the syrup, which, some said, struck in a cutaneous eruption, or not, is not altogether certain.

† The ingenious Mr. Blair, surgeon to the Lock Hospital, who has the most decided

LXIV. Let not the faculty nor society be any longer deluded by the performers of *miracles* in venereal complaints *without mercury*. Thousands of lives have been sacrificed at the shrine of credulity, thousands more by the indiscriminate use of quack remedies, and pretended panaceas. Let it not be said, in the beginning of 1800, that mankind, after having been so repeatedly deluded, will suffer delusion, artifice, and deception, to continue their daring violations of honour, truth, and integrity.

THE KNOWLEDGE OF PHYSIC EQUALLY NECESSARY AS SURGERY, IN THE TREATMENT OF VENEREAL AFFECTIONS.

IF a survey be taken of all the preceding venereal symptoms, of different ages, sexes, constitutions, circumstances, and necessary remedies, it must evidently appear, to every reflecting and candid mind, that a *complete knowledge in the art of physic is as necessary as surgery*, to combat, with spirited energy, the variety of cases that occur in an extensive venereal practice. It is the province of physic to prescribe internal medicine, and of surgery to perform manual operations; but both branches are so intimately connected in the treatment of venereal complaints, that they cannot be separated without manifest injury to society*. How can

any

decided opportunities of ascertaining the real effects of antivenereal remedies, has not only tried the plan under his own immediate direction, but has endeavoured, with a laudable love of truth, to collect from all quarters as many facts as possible on the subject. Several of the first surgeons in this metropolis, and many of my most intimate friends, have tried the nitric acid; but with what effect Mr. Blair's work fully and candidly declares, where nothing but disappointment stalks in every page. At the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary the remedy was tried, not from any expectation of success on my part; for it will be well remembered by the gentlemen of the Hospital, that I foretold, in a peremptory manner, that it was impossible to cure venereal cases by nitrous acid; but rather than appear obstinate, I complied with the request for trial. Seven cases went under the course without any success, who were soon after cured under the care of Mr. Phillips, the surgeon, by frictions. We had, as many others have, of the most respectable of the faculty, to regret, that we lost time in this bubble, and prolonged the misery of the afflicted patients, almost to death, in an irrational mischievous project.

* The prescriber, who well comprehends the *materia medica*, chemistry, and pharmacy, who can discover the adulteration of medicines, and who has been practically accustomed to compound and observe the effects of dif-

ferent

any person not well acquainted with chemistry, pharmacy, and the theory and practice of physic, discriminate with accuracy, and prescribe different compositions judiciously, according to the most skilful rules of medical science? How will a surgeon, however excellent in the operative part of the profession, be enabled to skilfully treat all the difficult cases of venereal inflammations, fevers, gangrenous affections, women during pregnancy, infants, the old and feeble, the young and robust, the delicate, nervous, and irritable, with all their innumerable varieties; if he do not well know the most efficacious management of all those cases uncombined with venereal virus? If he know not how skilfully to treat these cases simply, and this is no trifling knowledge, how will he be able to attack them with science and success, when complicated with that devastating disease, the venereal virus? Yet such extensive knowledge, if not always, is frequently necessary; or mankind must suffer for the defects of the artist: it is, therefore, ardently recommended to young students not to be satisfied with partial skill, but industriously endeavour to acquire general science. To attain great excellence in any branch of physic is highly commendable; but it is possible to be the greatest anatomist, or the most celebrated operating surgeon in Europe, without being well informed in the science and practice of physic *; and,

ferent doses of medicaments, and particularly those powerful weapons mercury and antimony, will always be better able to prescribe, than he who depends on the prescriptions of others, or of those books in general, that give directions about doses and compounding medicines, where will be found, in too many instances, gross errors, and several incautious forms of prescription: this will evidently appear hereafter. The best formula of medicines that can be suggested should only be taken as specimens, in general; the practical and individual application, in diseases, must always be formed from the particular circumstances of every case that offers, and must be left to the sagacity of every prescriber.

* Those who are unacquainted with my sentiments on the necessity and utility of anatomy, in producing excellent surgeons and physicians for the army, navy, and country, may read the tract I wrote, and sent to every noble and honourable member of Lords and Commons, to prevent ignorance being established by the laws of the land, when the *dead body bill* was agitated. That work has been since published at the end of my *Treatise on Dropsies, and on preventing or retarding many Affections common to old Age*. My *Schola Medicinae* was written to facilitate that and other essential studies.

on the contrary, a physician may have passed through all the general forms of study, be decorated with a doctor's degree, and yet be deficient in most things relative to surgery, and, in particular, the treatment of venereal affections. There are some surgeons who affect to slight or despise the theory and practice of physic; and there are a few physicians, who pretend, that it is beneath the dignity of diplomatic doctors to study that most useful of all arts, surgery. Both these opinions are erroneous and injurious; unless it could be proved, that the less a practitioner knows, the more capable he is of curing the most difficult diseases. To render mankind those benefits, which humanity and the healing art demand, all the branches are not too much to study on many important occasions; and those who comprehend most, are more likely to succeed, than those who conceive little, or confine themselves to the narrow limits of some particular department: for, as the great medical and Roman classic, *Celsus*, says, *Id ante omnia scire convenit, quod omnes medicinæ partes connexæ sunt, ut ex toto separari non possint.*

To the honour of the profession in this country, there are excellent surgeons, who are competent to all the branches of medicine; and those, who are thus qualified, are most capable of practising with success, and pouring down benefits on society: but in proportion as young surgeons neglect medical studies, and afterwards prescribe internal treatment, with a few general remedies, at random, so will they proportionably fail of success, and bring disgrace to that divine art, which it is their duty to support with honour and dignity. It is highly laudable, therefore, to obtain the completest information possible, in every department; for, though it may be a rational custom to only pursue one, yet in the practical application of that one branch, all the others are frequently included *.

Medical

* In the third volume of *Schola Medicinæ*, comprehending the practice of the whole art, there is one chapter on liberal and extensive medical education, the outlines of which may be seen in the introductory part of the first volume of *Schola Medicinæ Universalis Nova*; which, with the second, is already published in Latin. This third volume, if my life be spared, I intend translating into English, which, occupied as I am, will be no small labour; but will be more advantageous to the English reader, as Latin is gradually,

MEDICAL PRECEPTORS SHOULD ONLY TEACH AND INCULCATE DEMONSTRATIVE AND CONFIRMED TRUTHS, AND ALWAYS EXCLUDE HYPOTHESIS.

Ignorance, where learning and true science should predominate, is an enormous vice. He is superficial, designing, or ignorant,

gradually, it seems, going out of fashion. I have translated and lately published the references to the sixty-eight copper-plate engravings of the two former quarto volumes, which work was twenty-six years labour, for the sole advantage of the English students, to lay a solid foundation of anatomical, physiological, and pathological science, founded on demonstrative facts, and real dissections, &c. excluding all unproved assertions, opinions, false hypotheses, and idle chemical speculations. If medicine always spoke the language of strict truth, and if the extravagant effusions of wild conjecture were checked, violent disputation might be at an end, which oftener obscures than enlightens; sound principles and successful practice would be firmly established by accurate practical observation and experience.

When the friends of a student entering at the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary inquire what books are necessary to be read, I always answer, Let him go into the dissecting-room, and learn the names and uses of all the parts of the human body; and into the pharmaceutic laboratory, and stop to comprehend the preparation and compounding of medicines. Let him read *actual diseases* at the *bed-sides* of the sick; let him read and retain the symptoms of the numerous patients in and out of the house, their varieties in the same disease, with the real effect of remedies on different constitutions, indications, contraindications, and the *rationale* drawn from the patients' particular habits, which renders it necessary to often change prescriptions to persons labouring under one and the same disease. Let him regard the general name of the disorders painted on the door of each ward, and the name, age, and disease of each individual written over the bed's head of each patient: thus are obtained the different species of disease. Let him enter into the *minutiae* of various ages, sexes, and circumstances of patients in the *acute febrile, chronic, pulmonic, small-pox, infantile, lying-in, and surgery wards*. Let him keep a book or diary, according to my plan, and write down every thing he sees, hears, or comprehends, worthy of notice; and let him register his own juvenile observations parallel to each individual case, either in surgery, physic, and even midwifery, if any case peculiar should arise. Let him open all subjects possible, as I have done through life, and investigate with his own eyes the ravages of disease and the causes that led to death. Let him peruse short elementary books, at the same time, such as my esteemed friend Dr. Hooper's little Medical Dictionary, and Anatomist's *Vade Mecum*, &c. After this foundation, let him read the most celebrated Greek, Latin, French, and Italian authors, with circumspection, where he will find a confirmation of sound practice and cautions, if he should select

ignorant, who, from a vain affectation of universal knowledge, teaches or credits hypothesis, and daringly applies it to medical practice. There is nearly as much difference between true theory and hypothesis, as between light and darkness. A true theory is a demonstrative proposition fully proved *; an hypothesis an unproved proposition, a probability, an opinion, error, falsehood. Are successful facts, confirmed by long experience, to be deserted, and the lives of human beings to be risked on probabilities, on the flights of imagination, on the mere creatures of a distempered, unreflecting brain? as the great reasoner, Celsus, says, *Cujus autem rei non est certa notitia, ejus opinio certam reperire remedium non potest. Verumque est ad ipsam curandi rationem nihil plus conferre, quam experientiam.*

judiciously and avoid errors. Let him ever disregard mere opinions and fanciful suggestions, and particularly all embarrassing questions, so common in the Scotch professor Cullen, and others, frequently on subjects above human comprehension, which, if he be penetrating, and his mind logically arranged, he will discern with a glance of the eye, and immediately check all imaginary conceits. With the previous practical studies recommended and diligently pursued (*nihil enim sine labore*, as Cicero says), he will become a young medical critic; be able to judge of beauties and defects, and not be easily deluded by quaint phraseology, fallacious reasoning, or distorted false conclusions from dubious premises: he will examine first principles; if these be false, the superstructure, however plausible, must be equally so. If he be honourable, he will not deceive others; if he be wise and reflecting, he will not suffer the plausible deceptions of others to deceive himself, or to bias his mind with hypothetical unstable prejudices; he will only be open to truth and conviction, and not, through idleness or want of penetration, swallow uncouth words for things; but strip off those veils of deception and expose their dangerous tendency. Such are the most probable means of arriving at a great degree of perfection in the art, especially if every day's cautious and reflecting study, through life, be an improvement on the former, and if every investigation be pursued with alacrity and ardour, devoid of bias or infatuation. Such an education and study, when guided by good sense, sound judgment, and long experience, will give a spirited practice tempered with caution, in all important and difficult cases of disease. See *Generalia* and *Specialia* of medical education in *Schola Medicinæ*, vol. i. p. 52, immediately after the History of Medicine, and Chronology, &c. and likewise, many similar sentiments in different parts of the *Rational Practice of Physic*, to guard the young and inexperienced from attempting deep investigation, before they have seen or comprehended the facts of this difficult and extensive art.

* *Theorema est propositiō vera et demonstrativa.*

Whoever undertakes the important profession of teaching the practical art of physic, should well know its rise, progress, and present state, and should seriously guard the minds of his pupils against the intrusion of all conjectures, opinions, and hypotheses whatever. Had the framers of several recent and obscure hypothetical systems observed this moral and sensible rectitude, and had they not tainted the minds of their unsuspecting pupils, and inconsiderate followers, with many fallacious doctrines; we should not be pestered with the daily use of unintelligible phrases, pompous in sound, but empty in the requisites of truth. We should not have reason to deplore the many human sacrifices daily slaughtered at the altars of false conceit and vain-glorious speculation. Whilst many branches of the profession are proceeding to a greater degree of perfection; in the venereal disorder, chimerical opinions have exceeded all bounds in the regions of fancy, and they have produced all those miseries to society, that every man of learning, sound judgment, and experience, expected.

It is injurious even for individuals to imbibe dangerous prejudices; but the ill consequences then only affect a few patients, led by confidence and credulity into misfortune. When men high in reputation assume the instruction of others, and inculcate deleterious tenets in their lectures, the consequent miseries in different parts of the kingdom, and as far as the false doctrines extend, are beyond the reach of all human calculation.

It is with great concern and regret to be observed, that the learned university of Edinburgh, for many years, became the hot-bed of hypothesis, under the fostering hand of some of the professors. Though many ingenious men have appeared, and contributed much to the cultivation of medical science; yet the luxurious weeds of unbridled fancy have, in too many instances, overrun and obscured the fairest truths of the profession. The ardent minds of youth, by these means, have frequently taken a wrong turn, which the soberest judgment and reflection could scarcely eradicate through life. It requires the pruning-knife of experience and sound judgment to check the growth of these foward exotics; for, though they die in time a natural death from the mischiefs they produce; yet, while the rage of novelty may continue, they do abundance of evil. It is an arduous task to

develope, and requires courage to conquer prejudices; but it should be firmly attempted by every lover of truth and detector of false doctrines in the profession.

A GREAT DEFECT NOT TO KNOW THE BEST MODES OF PRACTICE.

It is a great mark of indolence, or ignorance, if fair and practical opportunities have offered, not to well know the most select, established, and successful rules of practice in the art of medicine; but when known, it argues the possession of a wavering unsteady mind, rashness, and presumption, to depart, on slight grounds, from the well-founded maxims resulting from ages of experience. Credulity is a strong mark of imbecility in the human mind, and a great vice in any medical character; but wantonly and irrationally to sport with the health and lives of human beings, on dubitable principles, is an abominable crime.

A KNOWLEDGE OF FORMER ERRORS MAY PREVENT FUTURE MISFORTUNES.

Whoever pretends to improve an art should previously comprehend the exact state of its perfection and imperfection. An extensive knowledge of all the rocks and quicksands, on which our ancestors have split or were shipwrecked, should warn us from present, impending, and future danger.

Many of the recent promulgators of novelties, in the venereal and other diseases, practise the reverse of this reasonable conduct. Could it be supposed, that many of the dangerous projects they have lately adopted, were tried a century or two ago, and banished through the mischiefs they produced? Could it be credited, that the same mischievous doctrines are revived now, and pretended to be new, entirely new modes of treatment? This, however, is certainly the fact. For men who understand not the learned languages, and of course cannot avail themselves of proper information on such important subjects, some apology might be invented; but even these have an opportunity to apply to many who possess erudition, and there is a liberality among the most learned in the profession, which is always ready to communicate freely, useful science to all who request assistance. It seems some of the

unlettered never supposed any consultation with learning and experience necessary; for, they spurn from them the advice of experience and the warnings of threatening dangers. Many become confident and assuming, in proportion as they are superficial, or inexperienced. When they have adopted errors, however deleterious, they are too proud to acknowledge the evils their rashness has brought on society. Every *novus homo*, of enterprising spirit, thinks himself capable, not only of curing the venereal and all other diseases, without intense observation or experience; but boldly censures all deep learning, and would sacrilegiously pluck the well-earned wreaths of laurels that have adorned the learned brows of all our generous predecessors, and most illustrious professional benefactors. By the misrepresentation of the learning of preceding ages, many late professors and writers of ambiguous medical and chirurgical systems have raised themselves no small degree of temporary fame amongst young students; but it may be depended on, that most of the practical precepts of real utility are artfully borrowed from other authors; and the greater part of useless speculations, and tedious desultory discourses, riddles, and perplexing questions, are commonly of their own invention and composition. The truth being thus disguised, it would appear to the unlearned, that all our predecessors were idiots, and that the present race of bold adventurers and manufacturers of hypotheses and books had the exclusive right to superlative wisdom. Every thing becomes the object of jarring disputation: the most sacred and long-established facts are suspected and boldly contradicted. The most excellent remedies have been frequently excluded to give place to idle conjectures. Every thing in such hands, and amongst their uninformed followers, bears an equivocal, ambiguous, and questionable shape. The mild art, sacred to humanity, thus beconzes the art, not of curing diseases, but of furious altercation. Men become scophilistical orators instead of skilful physicians; mighty and tremendous in words, but vacuous and deficient in curing diseases. The credulous world is thus deluded.

True science in medicine can only be obtained by long application and good sense. A profound knowledge of practical medicine can only be acquired by accurate observation. It is absolutely necessary

necessary to attend and examine, many years, in large hospitals, as well as in private practice, the actual rise, progress, and termination of all diseases; to clearly comprehend, without any bias or prejudice in favour of any particular system, the mutual relations, indications, contraindications, arising from some peculiar circumstances or constitutions, with the comparative force of remedies, so as to apply judiciously each mode of cure to every individual case, climate, and existing circumstances that offer.

THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE OUGHT TO DIFFER IN
DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

One practice in the venereal and other diseases may be excellent at Edinburgh, another in London, a third at Paris, a fourth at Turin, Florence, Rome, Venice, or Naples, a fifth at Vienna, Berlin, and Petersburgh, and a sixth, quite different, in the East, West Indies, North and South America. A remedy that would nearly destroy a lively volatile Frenchman, would scarcely excite any visible sensation, or action, in the torpid athletic Dutchman, Flanderkin, German, or Russian*. The same holds good in practice amongst the different constitutions, daily to be met with in every country. Hence the great deliberation and circumspection necessary, in prescribing, so as to order remedies adequate to various habits, local circumstances, and cases. No medical systems ever devised by man, much less those of recent manufacture, are equal to these grand objects; they all fail in numerous instances; the good sense, discernment, and experience of the practitioner must supply the rest, or practical medicine would be very defective and unsuccessful. Long practical experience, or observations on the different parts of the habitable world, are the most certain means of eradicating local prejudices in the minds of all but the self-sufficient and infatuated. Different countries have different modes of curing diseases, and it is liberal to put a favourable construction on all methods guided by science and long experience, however they may differ from those to which we have

* Perhaps this is one of the reasons, that in Holland, even by Boerhaave, we see from twenty to thirty grains of calomel, with a strong aloëtic, for one dose, to his sluggish countrymen: when the same dose, in other countries, would nearly prove destructive. It is found, that what cures in one country does not succeed in another, as corros. sublimat. &c.

been

been accustomed. We should never censure before we have seen. It is not narrow, but extensive knowledge that enables any man, however gifted in other respects, to successfully practise medicine: but the most studious and cultivated minds will always be superior to the self-conceited, dull, languid, or slothful.

**MODERATE TALENTS EQUAL TO LIGHT TRIFLING CASES,
BUT NOT TO DIFFICULT.**

In slight cases of the venereal or other diseases, any safe practice may succeed, however superficial, or inactive. Under such circumstances, men of very moderate talents and plausible manners may pass with the world for wonderful physicians, and acquire great fame from very little skill. In diseases of deep and difficult investigation, complex and dangerous cases, Herculean, penetrating talents, and profound science, to discover obscure causes, and active cause-removing remedies, are absolutely necessary to ensure success.

**PARTIAL KNOWLEDGE NOT EQUAL TO THE GENERAL
PURPOSES OF MEDICINE.**

To deeply comprehend causes and effects, and to conduct the sick from dangerous and alarming situations to perfect health, is frequently difficult to the most sagacious, learned, and experienced. The science adequate to such important purposes, is not to be acquired in botanical gardens, chemical laboratories, in the dissecting-rooms of the most able anatomists, by mere book reading, or plausible lectures; nor by the barbarous experiments of torturing living animals, so fashionable amongst some modern physiologists, who have drawn irrational conclusions from animals under the painful tortures of death. A man may have studied the whole animal kingdom, from the minutest insect to the hugest unwieldy elephant; he may have dissected, or examined with the microscope, the whole, and yet be a very indifferent surgeon, or physician, though he may pass, in the opinion of those who are no judges, for the very essence of medical and chirurgical erudition*.

* In proportion as a surgeon loses time in pursuits irrelative to the art, so must he be defective in practice. There is no time to worship strange gods.

MEN OF REAL LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE NOT LED ASTRAY
BY IDLE CONJECTURES.

Many extravagant novelties and bold hypothetical assertions, *sue veris probationibus*, resulting from partial cruel projects, or from irrelative inanimate substances, from doubtful chemical principles, &c. may surprise and delude the experimentors and their credulous superficial admirers ; but the doctrines have little or no weight with the cool, logical investigators of truth. It is perceived by the discerning and experienced, that most of the sophistical forced conclusions from such incoherent premises, are absolutely fallacious, or at most very dubious, and, therefore, practically useless. Many extravagant conceits of this and a similar nature, have made their appearance in the *venereal disease* ; but honourable and experienced practitioners, who know and practise their duty, are not to be led astray by shallow artifices. As long, however, as mankind and the unsuspicuous part of the faculty of medicine will continue to give credit to the plausible pretensions, folly, and absurdity of the crafty or infatuated ; so long will daring adventurers sprout up like mushrooms, and appear in every delusive form that finesse or wild fancy can suggest. It is the vicious faith and credulity of mankind that give rise to imposture and impostors.

IF FALSE OPINIONS WERE NOT APPLIED TO THE CURE OF
DISEASES, LITTLE MISCHIEFS WOULD ENSUE.

If the various and whimsical speculations so much in fashion in the *venereal* and other diseases, proceeded no farther than an inoffensive and curious inquiry, little mischief would accrue ; but when imaginary conceits are laid as a foundation for overturning all the long experience and wisdom of ages, and the human species become the fatal victims to such inordinate self-importance and vanity, it is high time to check the destructive *mania*, by exposure, and to teach the projectors and the abettors of false and dangerous doctrines, the moral duties they owe to society as medical practitioners. The juvenile pupils should be seriously apprized of the alarming dangers surrounding them, in the seductive form of illuminated science. Every occult phenomenon in nature is not within the sphere of human comprehension, or of the most accurate experiments and the most rational inductions. Much ever has, and will remain unknown. To acquire all the

truths possible, is laudable; to attempt more is visionary, seductive, useless, and frequently mischievous, if applied to medical practice. Many of the latest schemes should awaken suspicion; suspicion, and unfortunate facts, should prevent future delusion.

TRUE SCIENCE IN MEDICINE INCLUDES THE MOST CULTIVATED, SAFE, AND SURE MODES OF CURING DISEASES.

What is the ultimate object of practical medicine, but the most successful mode of curing diseases? Does science promise or society require more of the healing art? No, certainly not. Does not the most refined knowledge in medicine consist in well comprehending and ascertaining the comparative excellence and defects of different methods of treatment? Ought not the most successful modes to be adopted, that the longest experience and greatest number of facts have fully established? Can the short life of any one man, however gifted by nature, however industrious in the pursuits of these desirable objects, by his own single capacity and genius fulfil these difficult and important duties? Certainly not. The indefatigable labours, the reflections, the observations, and the acutest judgment of two thousand five hundred years, in general diseases, and above three centuries in the morbid affection now treated of, are scarcely sufficient for these salutary purposes. How then can persons of little experience and less reading be equal to the numerous difficulties with which medicine is frequently surrounded? May not even the most excellent rules and precepts, the art has yet attained, be misapplied through want of penetration and clear discernment in the prescriber? Certainly they may; but in such instances, not the art, but the artist, deserves censure *.

PRACTICAL MEDICINE ALWAYS TO BE APPLIED TO EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES, AND ACQUIRED ONLY BY LONG OBSERVATION WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

The practice of medicine can never be regular while human constitutions differ. The art must necessarily, in the venereal

* It is neither a sign of wisdom nor prudence for a surgeon to declare he never reads books nor studies authors; except as an excuse for his own ignorance of what has already been attempted with or without success,

and most other disorders, be accommodated to an endless variety of circumstances ; to well comprehend which, requires long practical experience, and the utmost exertions of sensible human intellects. In the variety of difficult and frequently complicated cases, with which medicine has to contend, vigilance and foresight, to avert and prevent future dangers, are not the least qualifications of a physician.

The difference of constitutions ; habits of life, both prior and present ; climate, ages, sexes, seasons of the year ; mental dispositions, whether acute and violent, placid or approaching to torpidity ; floridity, or pallidness ; corpulency, or slenderness ; all require the profound consideration and acute penetrating eye of physic. The just application of all these circumstances is the very soul of practical medicine, without all which, it is jejune and empirical, and must be frequently unsuccessful. In the treatment of venereal cases, a complete knowledge, as hath been observed, of practical medicine is as necessary, in many instances, as the greatest skill in surgery ; they must both often be united ; for the symptoms are frequently internal and external. It is impossible to comprehend these various objects, without intense and unwearied diligence, joined with numerous opportunities to observe practice, with a clear and unprejudiced judgment. The most brilliant faculties of man cannot obtain excellence in the healing art by any other means ; for all true and useful knowledge must be acquired by the most indefatigable industry. If mankind, deluded by false appearances, will be so superficial as to think otherwise, they will be punished, as they now are, in numerous instances of venereal infection, for their blind credulity in impossibilities, and their readiness to embrace all the wild incoherent projects, which only surprise to deceive.

All the advantages of reiterated long observation, all the discernment and skill of the most learned physicians and surgeons united, had been successfully applied to the treatment of the venereal disease. The modes of cure had arrived almost at the summit of perfection. The labours of the learned had showered down a profusion of comfort, and dispelled the miseries of the truly afflicted. The benign hand of salutary aid was held forth with joy and exultation on the certainty of conquering, in general, that baneful disturber of human delight. Men are never satisfied

with what they possess: they often lose the sensible substance in pursuit of a visionary shadow. In the venereal disease, these facts, with great regret it is pronounced, have been singularly exemplified lately, as will amply appear in the sequel.

ASTRINGENT INJECTIONS AND CAUSTICATED BOUGIES, SO DESTRUCTIVE IN THEIR PRESENT CONSEQUENCES, NO NEW INVENTION.

Astringent injections for hastily stopping the running of the *urethritis venerea*, and bougies, armed with caustics, to remove urethral contractions, are no new inventions*. They have been repeatedly introduced by enterprising, unfeeling practitioners, and as repeatedly opposed and banished by the judicious and humane, from the dreadful calamities they occasioned.

Astringent injections, producing urethral strictures, and causticated bougies, to burn a passage through the obstructed urethra, thus created by astringents, are now revived with such furious zeal, that unless their former and present mischievous consequences be exposed by irrefutable facts, the miseries attending the present and rising generation will be incalculable.

The astringent injections and caustic bougies are blended together; for, if the former were *never applied*, the causes that have given rise to the latter cruel expedient would never, or very rarely occur: this, an experience of above forty years hath fully confirmed, exclusive of the joint testimony of the most learned and skilful physicians and surgeons in Europe.

ON THE APPLICATION OF ASTRINGENT INJECTIONS IN THE SEDUCING FORM OF PROMPT AND SALUTARY ASSISTANCE.

It must be a great pleasure to inquisitive minds to be informed of what our ancestors have said, concerning the use of *astringent injections*; for they have been severely censured by the most learned, ingenious, and experienced ornaments of the medical profession. If the practisers of that *hasty* method of *suppressing venereal running* had been well informed of the consequences; they certain-

* It will appear they have been used by inconsiderate and rash practitioners for above two hundred years, particularly astringent injections; but have always been reprobated by the most learned, experienced, and humane.

ly would have been deterred from the indiscriminate use of vitriolic and saturnine preparations. A dread of the consequences to suffering patients, a regard for their own reputation and the honour of the healing art, might have induced the injectors to have listened with attention to the voice of reason and superior experience; but it seems they have never perused or regarded the dreadful miseries these fatal errors have produced; for, if they had, they would have acted with more prudence and caution. The objections and observations of the most sagacious and learned practitioners shall now be produced; they may induce young practitioners, untainted with injection prejudices, to avoid the destructive practice as they would a pestilence, and they may urge mankind to fly from the *stricture-causing syringe*, as they would from a deadly poison. He is truly wise who benefits by the misdeeds and misfortunes of others.

1. **FERNELIUS**, the greatest ornament of the age in which he lived, was chief physician to Henry II. King of France, and one of the first after *Jacques de Bethencourt*, 1527, and *Brassevolus*, 1553, who mentions the *gonorrhœa* as a venereal symptom, says, “The running being irrationally suppressed; for the most part, internally, are formed *abscesses*; about the *testicles*, *epididymis*, and *perineum*, which breaking, or being opened, matter flows.—A long-continued ulcer of the penis scarcely ever is curable, and, being neglected, fleshy tubercles and *excrencences* shoot forth, or harden into *callosities*, and form, not in one place only, a *meatus*, but two, and frequently three openings.” From this excellent and learned writer it appears, that the virulent *gonorrhœa*, or venereal running, no sooner appeared, or was known in the world, than some rash artists endeavoured to suppress it, at the hazard, as now, of all the dreadful consequences enumerated.

2. **JULIUS CÆSAR BENEDICTUS** expresses his horror at the use of *Astringents*, as the matter of a running should be considered *expelling* the disease; which *astringents* prevent, and repel the matter to the more noble parts. *Ab usu adstringentium horreo cum obstructions prohibeant gonorrhœam, nec minus adstringerem, ne retenta materia ad partes nobiliores revellatur, &c.*

3. **JONSTONUS** observes, that *suppressing* a *gonorrhœa* is productive of *abscesses* about the genital parts; and advises, that *astringents* should be avoided, lest, by retaining the matter that should be *discharged*, the parts should be eroded, &c.

4. **SYDENHAM**, the great Sydenham, one of the brightest ornaments of this country, says, “I am also well aware how much some practitioners

boast of curing this disease in a shorter time, by remedies which bear a great name; but I have found, by repeated observation, that the matter which should have been expelled, being detained in the body by *astringents*, has proved highly detrimental to the patient, by frequently returning into the blood, and at length causing the pox; nor is the decoction of the woods more effectual, though it be safer; for under a pretence of exhibiting specifics, the whole body, but especially the parts affected, already overheated, are still more inflamed; and sometimes, as I have already observed, I have known the gonorrhœa return, which vanished a little time before."

5. WISEMAN, surgeon to King Charles, and one of the greatest practitioners and writers of his age, mentions swelled testicle and abscesses in perineo to arise from *astringent injections*, and many difficulties of making urine in old age, from repeated gonorrhœa.

6. RIVERIUS, the Sydenham of France, says, "De Iscluria et Stranguria," amongst the causes, "Si caruncula urinæ commeatum impedit, præcessi gonorrhœa virulenta, aut ulcer in meatu virgæ, longo tempore materiam purulentam emittens.

"Sic in gonorrhœa, quamdiu adeat parastatum inflammatio, ardor urinæ, continuò percipitur."—He advises candelulae in the cure.

7. NENTER—"When the venereal flux or running is irrationally suppressed by medicaments, buboes, swelled testicles, and many of the very worst symptoms, are the consequence.

"*Astringents*, thrown up the urethra by a syringe, are the causes of caruncles in the passage. Sometimes they give rise to confirmed poxes. *Eadem adstringentia per syringam in urethram injecta sæpiissimè caruncularum auctores sunt.* More and certain mischief is to be expected from *astringents* exhibited, for which reason they should be seriously avoided, while acrimony of urine and other symptoms afflict the patient."

8. PITCAIRN was so well convinced of the danger of suppressing a running, even after the disease had been conquered, that he condemns even the use of *astringent* pills: *Cavete autem semper*, says that experienced and learned author, *ab ipsis pilulis adstringentibus. Hæ sæpiissimè enim gonorrhœam mutarunt in luem venereum*: for they often change a gonorrhœa into a confirmed pox.

9. FREIND, the learned author of the History of Physic, and one of the most sensible men of his time, mentioning the presumptuous ignorance of some anatomists, says, "For the more modern anatomists seem to be of a much lower character; and though they have been exact enough in the dissecting part, yet, without any regard to nature or right philosophy, are for advancing every trifling discovery into an *hypothesis*. The greatest part of this sort of writers have been like some workers in mechanics, who understand

understand the figure and position of every wheel and spring of the machine, but are ignorant of the true reason of its movements."—*Freind's History of Physic*, vol. ii. pages 386 and 397.

10. **SHAW**, physician at the British court, says, "The flux being stopped suddenly, whilst the matter is corrosive, whether by a fever, callosity of the parts, or the use of astringents, will occasion the lues venerea.

"An inflammation and tumefaction of the testes may arise in a gonorrhœa, either from the natural weakness of the vessels, violent motion, the *unseasonable use of astringents*, a neglect of purgation, or by any other means, whereby the *corrosive matter* is detained, or falls, with the blood, into them."—*Shaw's Practice in Venereal Disorders*, vol. i.

11. **HOFFMAN**, that very learned professor and experienced physician, says, "If a proper mode of curing the gonorrhœa be rightly instituted, the disorder is easily cured; but if badly managed, as very often happens from the perverse method of *quack surgeons*, applying their *astringents*, then with great labour and difficulty it is removed, &c.

"If the gonorrhœa should be treated with *astringents* before proper evacuations and depurators of the blood be prescribed, the *vitiated matter* will be *retained*, from whence *fomes* of new evils perpetually remain in the constitutions."

The same excellent and experienced author affirms, that lesions of the bladder, and even of the kidneys, occasioning a copious purulent sediment in the urine, happen, unless the *miasma venereum* be timely averted, &c.

He likewise gives a shocking case of the gonorrhœa being treated with *saturnine* preparations, as *tinctura antiphthisica grammari*, &c. in order to stop the *profluvium*, or running, &c.

12. **DR. ROBINSON**, who wrote expressly on the venereal disease, says, "And this caution I the more readily give, because I know some *ignorant fellows* are so bold as even to administer their *specific injections* under these virulent circumstances, and solely rely upon their operation for a perfect cure; but I think these remedies can scarce be used with safety in the first stage of this disease, nor is it possible they can have any good effects in the second, unless due cleansing and purging has preceded: but in the third they must frequently be attended with terrible consequences, especially if they are used before the venereal poison is corrected, and carried off by proper purges and alteratives; for the pocky virus, in this stage, is so malignant, that the least unseasonable step assuredly lays the foundation of a real pox.

"And to make the point a little more clear, we frequently observe, that whenever the running is unseasonably restrained, or the virulent matter blocked up, before the infection is totally carried off by medicines, that

that cleanse the parts, and evacuate the poison; a real pox will certainly be produced, with all its calamitous attendants and miserable effects."—
Dr. Robinson on the Venereal Disease, cap. iv. .

" But when the flux of matter, that ought to flow by the urinary passage, is restrained or blocked up, either from the virulence of the infection, the unseasonable use of *astringents*, or the improper application of *styptic injections*; then the third and last stage of this disease is introduced, which is indeed but *one remove* from the pox itself. Nay, sometimes if the running by the urethra does not return again, it slides into the most malignant degree of that distracting malady, often generating hollow *sinuous ulcers*, that eat into the *scrotum*, *perinæum*, and *intestinum rectum*; which, in process of time, turn *fistulous*, and discharge a very virulent færies, or corrupted pus; and which sends out a most abominable stench."

13. HEISTER, the very experienced army physician, author of the most excellent Compendium of Anatomy, and the greatest System of Surgery ever produced, in his medical, chirurgical, and anatomical observations, mentions swelled testicles to arise in consequence of surgeons having stopped runnings in the virulent gonorrhœa.

14. ASTRUC observes, " That swelled testicles and buboes are caused by suppressed gonorrhœa; and inflammation, abscesses, and fistula of the perinæum arise, *si l'on arrête l'écoulement virulent, par usage imprudent d'injections astringentes.*" He proceeds, and says in another place, " The imprudent use of *astringent injections* to the urethra of the men, and the vagina of women, with *la pierre medicamenteuse de Crollius*, colcothar, the powder of Verney, and with other similar *styptic powders*, *vitriolic* or *aluminous*, &c. which too frequently occasion those accidents that follow a gonorrhœa, as strangury, &c. by *contracting* and closing the urethra, or cause the *lues venerea*, as often as the least particles of *virus* remain."

He adds, " that the imprudent use of *astringent injections*, when they stop the infectious discharge, may be reckoned among the causes of *abscess* in the *perinæum*, which follows a gonorrhœa *."

15. M. COL DE VILLARS, that famous and excellent practitioner in venereal cases, enters into a greater detail of the evil effects of *astringents* than even the celebrated Astruc.

" This method of curing the virulent gonorrhœa is not less dangerous than *speedy* and *easy*: experience has but too often proved that all *vitriolic*, *astringent injections*, or such as are composed of *fixed acid salts*, recommended by Musitan, the medicated stone, colcothar, *styptic* or

* Astruc was one of the most learned physicians, and the best writer of his time on the venereal disease.

aluminous powders, capable of *speedily checking* the discharge, certainly do not fail to occasion the most *dreadful* consequences, and even the confirmed pox (*la vérole universelle*), when they are used in the commencement of the disease, or before the virus has been destroyed by proper remedies; in fact, the matter which flows freely, or begins to flow from the parts which are the seat of the gonorrhœa, after being suddenly suppressed, accumulates, occasions heat and inflammation in the affected parts, contaminating and infecting every thing it touches. The virus, thus increasing in quantity and quality, affects every part of the organs of generation, is repelled to the testicles by the *vas deferens*, exciting considerable inflammation, or increasing the disposition to form it; the *urethra* and *neck* of the *bladder* chiefly suffer, from the blood-vessels of this canal being contracted and closed by the irritation and corrugation of fibres impeding the free circulation of the blood, in consequence of the saline and *styptic* particles of the *injection*; hence arise swelling of the *corpora cavernosa* and *corpus spongiosum* of the *urethra*, *ulcers* of the canal, partial or total *retention* of urine, and every symptom that can happen in a violent gonorrhœa. If the virus be very active and penetrating, and be not evacuated by the *urethra*, it passes through the sanguiferous and lymphatic vessels, mixes with the *whole mass* of *blood*, and occasions an *universal* *lues*; which soon becomes evident by pains in the head, nocturnal pain in the bones, exostoses, eruptions, pustules, and buboes, or venereal ulcers; unless the infection attach itself to some particular organ during a certain time, and, afterwards, give rise to some disease. But if the virus be less subtil and penetrating, occasioning no affection of the glands of the *urethra*, nor have time to become so active; it fixes in the glands, indurates them, and sometimes remains a number of years without causing any dangerous symptoms, until it be roused by the presence of some internal or external disease; it is then put into action, and occasions particular symptoms, which are never attributed to their real cause."

16. The celebrated *DARAN* observes on *M. Col de Villars*—“ *M. Col de Villars*, asserting that *astringents* never fail to occasion dreadful accidents when employed in the beginning of a gonorrhœa, or before the virus has been destroyed, seems to insinuate that nothing dangerous is to be apprehended from their use, towards the *end of the disease*, and after the *destruction* of the virus. I confess that astringents could be employed, without temerity, provided the discharge was occasioned by relaxation of the excretory vessels only; but *experience* has taught me, that the dangerous accident, which we are now speaking about (*stricture*), is the effect of an ulcer in the *urethra*, that has not been cicatrized. It is impossible, there-

fore, for any one to have greater reason than I have myself to prohibit, in general, the use of *astringents* in the cure of a *virulent gonorrhœa*."

17. VAN SWIETEN—This learned and late celebrated physician to the court of Vienna, says, speaking of injections, "Since such injections cleanse the urethra through its whole length, and could be of various composition, according to the degree of affection, they (the injectors) expected to be able to cure the gonorrhœa, like a *topical* or *local* disease, by injections alone. This was the opinion of an eminent physician, who recommended *lime-water*, *solutions of saccharum saturni*, *vitriolum album*, *decoctum of guaiacum*, &c. as injections, promising, by these means, a certain cure. I confess my sentiments to be very different from theirs, and believe those methods dangerous; since such remedies certainly do mischief, by inducing *contraction*, and, by stopping the discharge, occasion a *deceitful hope*, but by no means a *perfect cure*: nor does such a sensible part as the urethra bear these acrid or irritating things, and intolerable pain is sometimes produced; the whole urethra corrugated, and, by a continuance of their use, becomes *totally closed*; whence arise many *dreadful evils*, besides those which may be expected from retention of the venereal virus."

18. LUDWIG—"In repulsions of the gonorrhœa (urethritis venerea), particularly by *strong astringents* and *opiates*, without any excretion or evacuation of the morbid matter, if dryness of the fauces, with fungous excrescences, swelling of the testicles, or other morbid symptoms occur, the discharge is to be reproduced by every possible method."

19. ROWLEY—Above thirty years ago I wrote a short Treatise on the recent Venereal Infection of the Urethra, condemning, in very severe terms, the rough mercurial, aloetic, purging, vomiting, and the *astringent injection* practice, illustrated with a few cases and observations. This was one of the first essays reprehending those violent practices that are to be found in *Boerhaave* and most preceding authors; for before, and at that very time, they were too commonly the methods of cure in vogue amongst the old army and navy and other surgeons *.

20.

* I went into his Majesty's service the 8th of May 1761, and was first sent to *Belleisle*, where, likewise, was the late Mr. John Hunter. I was then but between seventeen and eighteen years old; and a circumstance gave me an opportunity of seeing many unfortunate victims of rough antivenereal practices, as well as the mischiefs arising from *astringent injections*, &c. A great number of men and officers had come from the East Indies with the late Sir George Pococke, shattered in their constitutions, not only by venereal complaints, but by the drastic treatment they underwent in that hot climate, with the intention of curing their maladies. From suppressed runnings many were confirmedly pox'd; old fetid and callous ulcers of

20. VOGEL—"It is necessary to abstain from the use of *astringent*, and particularly *saturnine injections*, which, by checking the *salutary discharge*, produce symptoms that are much more dangerous, as *scirrhouſe tumours* of the *testicles*, *hobots*, *venereal gout*, *rheumatic pains*, *tumours*, *ulcers*, and even the *lues venerea*."

21. LIEUTEAUN, speaking of the swelled testicles, says, "That stopping the virulent discharge by *astringents* is among the causes."

22. BROOKS, in his Practice of Physic—"When a gonorrhœa has continued a long while, or long enough for the *poisonous matter* to make its the legs were numerous; obstructions of urine from former *astringents*, and old diseases about the *perineum*, and external and internal fistulas about the *anus*, presented themselves. They were sent on shore from the *Arrogant*, and, I believe, some from the *Royal William*, and were under my immediate care, at a temporary hospital, erected with masts and sails in the place they called *Bloody Bay*, where we lost some men on the first landing. Young as I was, I became extremely anxious and interested in the relief of these unfortunate men, as well as petty officers. I succeeded and cured some, and in others I failed. It was there I had the first opportunities of exerting myself in the cure of old ulcers of the legs, and formed the outline of that plan, which I published about the year 1767, but lately republished and improved, and by which many thousands have been radically cured.

The miserable cases I then saw, victims to *astringent injections* and other *mal-practices*, filled my mind with horror, and made such a strong impression, that I was determined never to use those methods and remedies, that I saw, not only then but afterwards, while in the service, in the West India islands and at the *Havannah*, &c. In these burning climates I had opportunities to see the face of diseases quite different to the European, and I endeavoured to meet them in a manner opposite to many then in vogue; for almost all the infected died. There I formed my resolution never to *bleed* or give any *saline remedies* in putrid-tending diseases. The whole plan of cure for *putrid sore throats* and *putrid fevers* is fully explained in the Rational Practice of Physic; and for the success, the *St. Mary-te-bone Infirmary* can best declare it. If in the *yellow fever* of the West Indies, projectors had not started up, who would not listen to the voice of experience, neither the *putrid fevers* of *Philadelphia* nor *New York*, &c. would have been so fatal. It is a fact, that the avoiding all *saline remedies*, and judiciously giving the *acid of vitriol*, with wine, &c. sometimes with or without bark, after removing whatever may offend the stomach and intestines, are the only means, with pure air, &c. of checking and counteracting *putrid*, malignant, and infectious diseases; which has been fully proved in thousands of instances, for a period of above thirty-five years, under my own inspection, and that of others, untainted with hazardous prejudices. In all the hospitals on the continent, there are more slaughtered by the *lances* and *saline cooling remedies*, in infectious and low fevers, than by the diseases.

way into the blood; or if, by *astringents* given unseasonably, it cannot make its exit, then the patient is infected with the *pox*."

23. JUBERTHOU, a very skilful writer on venereal complaints, asserts, "I cannot too often repeat that *astringent injections*, against which all learned practitioners exclaim, very often expose patients to *stoppages of urine*, that prove fatal, or at least reduce them to the necessity of evacuating their urine *drop by drop*, occasioning incurable fistulas, and, in fact, destroying millions of the human species, by preventing the *ejection of semen* in the act of coition."

DARAN—(*Effet unisble des Astringens*)—"My observations prove that *astringent remedies* are very *deceitful*. Many of my patients have employed them in vain, others have had the misfortune to see them succeed in appearance, and have happily surmounted their violence, and the discharge has recommenced. These *astringent injections* often produce so great a *contraction* of the urinary canal, that the evacuation of urine is intercepted, which has induced me to place this stricture amongst the number of venereal causes of a difficulty of voiding urine."

M. Daran has given many instances in his *cases of stricture* and other diseases, from *astringents*. It was impossible for any practitioner to have had more experience or success in the cure of maladies of the urethra. I knew him intimately at Paris, and was frequently witness to his success; he introduced me to M. Sabatier, M. Louis, and to the *Royal Academy of Surgery*, near thirty years ago; and in my conversations with this able practitioner, he always mentioned improper treatment, and particularly *astringent injections*, as the cause of so many bougie cases; but he never used *caustic bougies*, though he cured many thousands *.

M. Daran, before he introduces *Astruc* and *Col de Villars* in support of his doctrine against *astringents*, says, "It is easy to conceive that all emollients are proper to remedy the *contraction*, and they are more efficacious in proportion as they are more powerful. But can there be a greater motive for *entirely banishing astringents* than their want of utility in not operating, or from their having only a *temporary effect*, or a dangerous one when it *lasts*, which we are obliged to destroy to prevent mischief?

"That these are their common effects no one can doubt, and I appeal to all experienced practitioners, *worthy of credit*, for the truth of what I advance," &c.

24. DIBON, surgeon to the Swiss guards at Paris—"Consulting M. Dionis and Winslow on a *case of impeded urine*, those very excellent surgeons

* The composition of M. Daran's bougies will be given in the latter part of this work.

declared, that the cause of retention was a gonorrhœa ill-treated, because we know that strangury often succeeds a gonorrhœa, caused by *astringents* given *mal à propos*; and in too great quantity," &c. &c.—“*Délibéré à Paris, par nous, Docteurs Régens de la faculté de médecine en l'université de Paris, le 21 Mai 1748.* (Signed) WINSLOW et DIONIS.”

25. HOME—“*Tumor Testium venereus*, or venereal swelled Testicle. The cause is an inflammation of the urethra, communicated through the *vasa deferentia* to the testicles, from too much exercise, over heat, *astringent injections*, and too strong cathartics,” &c.

26. STORCK, the celebrated Vienna court physician, friend and *élève* of Baron Van Swieten, in his *Annus Medicus* gives a case of gonorrhœa, suppressed by *astringents*, occasioning an ulcer of the navel, and there producing matter similar to that which before came from the urethra. In his *Precepta Medica* he says, “*Astringent and syphilitic injections* are always to be avoided, where the matter flowing forth is acrid, tenacious, badly coloured, or fetid, for the actual venereal virus is as yet malignant. Injections, with a great quantity of *saccharum saturni*, ought never to be used; for the most part they quickly mitigate the symptoms; but the consequences are horrid; of long continuance, and frequently resist the most judicious remedies.”

27. STOLL mentions obstruction of urine to arise from *astringent injections* and turpentine remedies, &c. “On opening the body of a man who died of suppression of urine, from an ill-treated gonorrhœa, 1. Small gangrenous ulcers of the urethra were found. 2. The prostate and adjacent glands were much swelled and inflamed, almost in a state of mortification. 3. The bladder had *burst* from retention of urine.

“Another instance where a man died of suppressed urine, from neglected or ill-treated gonorrhœa: showed two abscesses ruptured and placed on the prostate, the one swelling as large as a nutmeg, the other three times larger.”

28. Professor MARHERR, after showing that the nervous membrane of the bladder is continued all through the urethra, says, *Acriter sensibilis est*, as often as the mucus is abraded or the epidermis covering it. The internal superficies of the urethra is smooth, and universally lubricated with mucus, that it should be defended from the acrimony of the urine. Then he demonstrates the mucous sinuses, and their openings in the urethra. They begin at the bulb, and continue to the gland. In hos sinus mucus deponitur et secernitur, sive id per arterias solummodo fiat, sive per cryptas minimas et folliculos simplices, qui quidem hic vix demonstrari possunt, neque ab omnibus anatomicis admittuntur.

In these sinuses is the first seat of the *venereal poison*, or *miasma* in the gonorrhœa: when it extends higher it can affect the prostate and *vesiculae seminales*,

feminales, &c. Not sufficiently cautiously do they act, who throw injections up the urethra in a gonorrhœa, and who persuade themselves that they can wash away the *fomes* or venereal poison; whilst the liquor, injected in a contrary direction to nature, drives the matter, which should be discharged, into the *inmost recesses* of the *lacunæ*, and confines it there, particularly if the injection be *astringent*, which *surgeons frequently use*.

29. PLENCK, that learned and excellent writer, says, “ *Astringent injections* thrown into the urethra do much mischief, and give rise to buboes and swelled testicles.”

30. DE MEZA—“ The use of the antivenereal remedies should be persisted in, until the running almost ceases of its own accord; *donec fluxus sponte sere cessat*: for the gonorrhœa being stopped improperly, gives origin to the *confirmed pox*.” He gives an instance of a suppressed gonorrhœa occasioning a diseased bone of the forehead, and confirmed lues.

31. CALLISEN, amongst the causes of *dysuria*, or voiding urine drop by drop, or with difficulty, mentions venereal virus, *incautious injections*, &c.

32. *La Medecine Militaire*—The late amiable and humane monarch of France, who fell a victim to the barbarity and insanity of the times, had a code of medical military practice written for the use of the army surgeons, &c. ever careful of that people who so ungratefully treated him, compiled by M. Colombier, who says,

“ For it is evident that, without this latter precaution, the use of *astringents*, either internally or externally, occasions very dangerous symptoms, or at least multiplies the *lues venerea*.

“ There was a famous surgeon at Paris formerly, who wishing to cure the gonorrhœa *speedily*, and with little trouble, administered nitre in water during the first fortnight, then gave a purge or two, and employed *astringents in every form possible*: sometimes he succeeded in *stopping* the discharge without inducing any unpleasant consequences; but he generally gave his patients the *confirmed pox*, and his method occasioned either *callosities*, *striatures*, or *carnosities* in the urethra. It is a happy reflection, that those medical practitioners who hold posts in the army have more sure and less dangerous principles of practice than this surgeon.—After the supposed cure, little *knots* remain in the urinary canal, which are called *carnosities*, and which are nothing else than the *cicatrices* of former small ulcers, which have formed themselves in this part. This happens from too strong or premature *astringent injections*.”

33. CULLEN—“ I am persuaded the early use of *astringent injections* is pernicious, producing swelled testicles, &c.” He approves of mercurial injections, and advises *astringents* in the latter stage of the disease.

34. SWEDIAUR disapproves of *acrid* or *astringent injections* during the inflammatory stage of the disease. In suppressed gonorrhœa “ the virus seems

seems to leave its natural seat under the *frænum*, and to settle lower down, where the excretory ducts of the seminal vessels and prostate gland open into the urethra, and there excites a swelling in one or both testicles; or, if it has been driven still lower down, to the neck of the bladder, the patient has a continual desire to make water, without being able to pass any, or only a few drops at a time: he is then often unable to stand upright for a quarter of an hour; and a total suppression of urine is, in this case, frequently the consequence. In all these different places the poison generally produces only a superficial inflammation; though not unfrequently also, by its virulence or want of a sufficient quantity of mucus to dilute it, an *excoriation* and *ulceration* of the urethra, which then never fails to end in an obstinate gleet, and to be followed by a general infection of the mass.

35. Mr. PERCIVAL POTT—This excellent, learned, and celebrated surgeon, whose experience and observations have enriched surgery with several useful improvements, the result of public confidence and the most extensive practice perhaps any surgeon ever enjoyed, was decidedly against the use of injections. I remember being consulted by a young gentleman of fashion, in a very recent gonorrhœa, who requested, before I wrote any prescription, to hear Mr. Pott's opinion; who, when even the lubricating injection joined with *argentum vivum* was proposed, objected to the practice, and said, it might be used, but he did not give his assent, and the young gentleman must remember, that he thought it his duty to say he might inject; *sed tuo periculis*, said Mr. Pott, who would not be responsible for the consequences.

36. Mr. J. HOWARD—This ingenious surgeon has written very sensibly on venereal infection, and dedicates his work to the celebrated Mr. Pott, acknowledging his obligations to that great practitioner for whatever just notions the work contained. When speaking on astringent injections, he says, “ The truly distressing complaints just described (abscess and fistula in *perinæo*) may be, and often are produced by mismanagement during the inflammatory stage of a clap. But it is necessary that the young practitioner should also know that these remote consequences, namely, stricture, abscess, fistula in *perinæo*, and diseased prostate, may arise from suppression of what may be called a very trifling clap, even in its early stage, at a time when the symptoms of inflammation are extremely slight. And I have more than once been able to trace each of these unfortunate circumstances to the use of *sedative injections*; so difficult it is to form a right judgment of a supposed cure, so various are the symptoms of the disease, and so dangerous may its consequences be!”

37. Mr. EVERARD HOME—This distinguished gentleman, in direct contradiction to the practice of his preceptor the late Mr. John Hunter, who

was

was a warm advocate and practiser in the freest use of astringent injections, says, " Since this work was first published, a number of cases of stricture have come under my care, that were considered by the patients themselves to be the immediate effects of injections; in many of these I was inclined to attribute their opinion to prejudice, and therefore did not venture to draw any conclusions from them. I have, however, seen two or three instances, where, from using injections less diluted than they ought to have been, the irritation was almost immediate, in the middle of the canal, where the injection stopped; and the formation of a stricture in that part, which is not commonly the seat of the original disease, could be *actually traced to the use of the injection*. The internal membrane had become thickened, in consequence of inflammation forming a swelling, which was felt externally, through the common integuments.

" These instances, which do not admit of a *doubt*, led me to pay more attention to this subject, and I have since been induced to believe, that many of the accounts I had before discredited were not unworthy of attention. In those cases of stricture attributed to injections, it is to be observed, that the application had generally given *unusual pain*, brought on an *irritation on the internal membrane of the urethra*, or at the *neck of the bladder*, as it is more commonly termed; which proved both *tedious and troublesome*, before it could be removed.

" That injections, injudiciously used, have, in some individual cases, disposed the canal to stricture, *I think is supported by facts beyond the reach of controversy*. There is, therefore, in all irritable habits, some danger of an injection producing this effect, since, whenever the stimulating powers of the injection are greater than the membrane of the urethra in that person can bear, which *cannot be a priori ascertained*, a state of irritation is the consequence.

" From the idea that injections do sometimes produce strictures, and that we are *unable beforehand to determine in what cases they may be used with impunity*, I have been induced entirely to *forego their use in the treatment of gonorrhœa*, rather than incur a risk, however small it may be, of producing so seriously distressing a complaint." This is an honourable declaration of the *clerk* of the late Mr. J. Hunter.

Contemporaries, &c.—After the long period that I have been engaged in medical pursuits, it is hoped, that it will not be considered improper to communicate what I have seen, known, and heard from the most eminent practitioners in Europe, the physicians and surgeons of the hospitals at Paris, Lyons, and different parts of France; of Florence, Rome, Naples, Bologna, Ferrara, Padua, Venice, in Italy; Trieste, Vienna, Ratisbon, Franckfort, Mentz, Cologne, Louvain, Brussels; and at Rotterdam, the Hague, Amsterdam, Leyden, and other parts of Holland, in

my various juvenile and later travels to ascertain medical facts, and render my favourite work, *Schola Medicinae*, practically useful. Amongst other inquiries, I always found the most experienced and able surgeons and physicians inimical to *astringent injections*, and have constantly heard them condemned in the severest terms, as productive of all the evils enumerated. In my own observations and practice, which, in above forty years, have been immense, owing to natural activity, an ardent desire of comprehending and improving the medical art, and seizing all opportunities in promulgating whatever was considered useful; I can most solemnly assert, that I have seen, with concern, many hundreds of devoted victims that, at different periods, have been inexpressibly sufferers from the wanton use of *astringent injections*. So that the numerous facts of cotemporaries, many of whom had been in practice forty or fifty years before I entered into the profession, and numerous practitioners about my own age, in different countries, and in England, whose veracity can be depended on, make a period of nearly one hundred years of actual witnesses, who were celebrated and esteemed for skill and judgment, to whom I have been personally known; who were unanimous in their disapprobation and abhorrence of *astringents*, from the mischiefs they generally produced.

There have been some, who have avoided the use of astringent injections during the inflammatory and purulent periods, and only assert their utility after the infection has been removed. It is difficult to know with certainty when the infection may be removed; and, in general, if practitioners would suffer the *muciparous* glands to perform their own balsamic *healing functions*, the running in a little time will gradually stop of itself, under a mild mercurial course, a fact the injectors seem not to know; and if it should not, however disagreeable to the patient, *astringent injections*, if not always, are frequently hazardous or dangerous, and sometimes destructive.

If it were asked, what can be brought in defence of astringent injections? the plain answer would be, the unsubstantial effusions of chimerical projectors, the decoying stratagems of pliant interested men, who acquiesce in prevailing fashions, however absurd and injurious, and the bold assertions and deceitful promises of audacious empirics, who have no reputation to lose, and who are totally indifferent to the manifold miseries they heap on mankind *.

Behold

* The assertions, "that the running of a *gónorrhœa veneræ* will cure itself; that local diseases only require local or topical remedies; that the *venereal inflammation* of the *mucal glands*, &c. of the *urethra* ought to be treated

Behold the mass of evidence, then, introduced, containing the sentiments of some of the most learned, skilful, and experienced physicians and surgeons in Europe, directed against the use of astringent injections; men who have been famous for veracity and judgment, for above two hundred years. It remains, hereafter, to see whether practitioners, with these undeniable proofs before them, will still continue those unskilful and deleterious practices, that have produced such various calamities to society. It will be seen whether pertinacious obstinacy in error, or humanity, will predominate, in the cure of recent venereal infection.

ON VARIOUS OBSTRUCTIONS OF THE URETHRA, OR URINARY CANAL, IMPEDING THE FREE EVACUATION OF URINE.

THE terrible effects of astringent injections have been sufficiently proved by the repeated writings of the most learned practitioners that ever appeared: with these observations, truths, and most sensible admonitions, the rash injectors, by their conduct, seem to have been either unacquainted, or they have turned a deaf ear to the cautions of experience. If bold injecting adventurers had not continually started up, the excellent authors, whose sentiments have been quoted, would have been less free in their spirited animadversions on those injection delusions, from time to time, for so long a period, as two centuries. From a review of what has been advanced, even ignorance, after reading these facts, unless invincible, cannot form any rational plea in favour of styptic, vitriolic, or saturnine applications in the cure of urethritis venerea. If the erroneous or infatuated will not peruse the original authors; they have, in this more compendious information, the collective force of safe principles and doctrines, united with direful descriptions, that are sufficiently cogent to deter all, but the callous-hearted and inhuman, from a repetition of those ignorant and dangerous projects, that have brought to unsuspicious patients such dreadful calamities. To consider and remedy all the evils enumerated, as far as they may be remediable, becomes the immediate object of the subsequent part of this treatise.

treated as though it had not arisen from *infection*, but simply as a *catarrh*, &c." and other unfounded, absurd, dissecting-room and fallacious notions, will hereafter be fully refuted.

The effects of astringents; of not early applying the grand specific, in its mildest and simplest form, and other omissions and mal-practices, already intimated, are as follows:

- I. Contraction of the urethral canal, obstructing the free discharge of urine.
- II. Callosities, or thickened hardened cicatrices, and urethral ulcers of long continuance.
- III. Spongy excrescences, of a loose texture, in the urethra.
- IV. Tumefied or indurated verumontanum, diseased vesiculæ seminales.
- V. Spongious and soft enlargement of the prostate gland.
- VI. Scirrhous, or hardness and swelling of the prostate gland.
- VII. Ulcer of the prostate gland.
- VIII. Contraction of the neck of the bladder.
- IX. Concretions of the urethra.
- X. Ulcers of the perinæum communicating with the urethra, through which part of the urine passes, &c.

These are the general affections; though, on a more minute inquiry, others subordinate to these frequently occur. What have been recited, anatomical examination has demonstrated. Every disease in the dismal catalogue I have seen treated by different methods, and with various success; from a comparative view of which, what has been found most useful, and attended with least pain and danger to patients, in the greatest number of cases, shall be faithfully and unreservedly communicated.

AFFECTIÖNS, &c.

1. CONTRACTION OF THE URETHRAL CANAL OBSTRUCTING THE FREE ISSUE OF URINE.

This obstructs the passing of urine in various degrees, more or less, in a small, forked, or twisted screw-like stream, or drop by drop, with greater or less pain.

This obstruction may exist in the urethra many years, without any great inconvenience, if the stricture should not have much lessened the canal. The semen, under such

a cir-

REMEDIES AND TREATMENT.

1. Open the intestines with a gentle laxative, and the rectum with an enema, that there may be no compression of parts from faeces or excrements previous to examination.

2. Soak the penis in warm milk and water, and inject a little of the following composition, or *Ol. amygdalarum*, warm:

R Olei amygd. 3ij,
Vitelli ovi q. s.
Aqua puræ 3vj. Misce.

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a circumstance, indeed, may not be properly directed into the vagina in the act of coition, and may become a cause of impotence, and thus the procreation of the human species may be prevented: which cases I have known.

As men advance in years, however, and the expelling powers for evacuating the bladder of urine be less energetic, or weaker, the obstruction is more and more sensibly felt. The muscles of the bladder, called *detrusores urinæ*, cannot so powerfully act, so as to overcome the resistance formed by the stricture in the urethra; the urine is with difficulty voided, and in some instances with no inconsiderable pain. Whether these symptoms happen earlier or later in life, the mode of treatment is the same. The whole cure must depend on circumstances, according to the difficulties experienced, which are to be ascertained by the patient's feelings, and the introduction of bougies. One rule should be invariably observed, which is, to pass the largest sized bougie the urethral canal can bear without painful sensations. No force nor violence should ever be used; gentleness cures, but roughness and force destroy. I have known instances where a rude unskillful operator has passed the catheter with so much force, to overcome urethral resistance, that a new opening out of the line of the urethra has been made into the bladder, causing great inflammation,

tion,

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If the penis be in a state of relaxation, or shortened from cold, &c. and its internal membrane corrugated, the operator might be deceived without the use of the injection, &c. and mistake any uneven surface of the urethra for a stricture, or obstructions.

3. Having discovered the exact situation of the impediment by a catgut bougie, if the canal be very small, or by a medicated larger bougie smeared with the unguentum, if admissible; which should pass beyond the seat of the disease; it should then remain in the urethra as long as the sensibility of the parts will suffer it, without exciting heat, or uneasy sensation. It is better to proceed slow and sure, than to produce inflammation by hasty unfeeling rashness.

4. If, after a few applications of the medicated bougies, with the appropriate unguentum, no increased secretion and excretion from the mucal glands and surface of the urethra should appear, nor any sensible or decided alteration in the stricture be evident, then the bougie should be covered or sprinkled with a little white precipitated mercury; or, if greater force be necessary, with a little turbith mineral rubbed into the part of the bougie that will come in contact with the stricture, which has been previously ascertained by the first examination. If this application produce a discharge, and the bougie should come out covered with mucus, it must

Affections, &c.

tion, excruciating pains, mortification, death!

A humane consideration of the sensibility and all the various functions of all the genital parts, should be uppermost in the practitioner's mind. He should recollect, that apparently small causes of disease in the kidneys, ureters, bladder, or urethra, often produce the most direful effects. None of these parts are to be treated with unfeeling carelessness; but with the greatest reflection, circumspection, and humanity. The young artist should ever consider a variety of circumstances before he acts. There is nothing so dangerous as what is called a bold, dashing, ferocious surgeon, in these delicate complaints. All the anatomy, physiology, hitherto known, of the parts, is scarcely sufficient, in some instances, to determine the most rational practice necessary. It likewise happens, in many cases, that the most skilful and erudite medical science is demanded in the internal treatment, or no success will attend the greatest chirurgical skill.

**II. CALLOSITIES, OR THICKENED
HARDENED CICATRICES, AND
URETHRAL ULCERS OF LONG
CONTINUANCE.**

These are known by a long-continued issuing of fetid purulent pus, or yellow matter, from the urethra. They may be situated in various parts of the canal; are the dreadful

effects

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be continued, with or without merc. precipitatus albus, or turbith mineral. These, acting gently on the surface of the former old cicatrix, callosity, thickened membrane, or callous-edged ulcer, soon relax the stricture, so as to admit a larger bougie, which may be introduced, and the discharge will be often sufficiently continued, without the mercurial preparations, by only using the unguentum suppurans. Mercurials are not always used on a supposition that these cases are venereal, but merely to gently abrade and remove the contracted part of the membrane, by the mildest mode of producing excoriation. After this, larger and larger bougies are to be introduced, augmenting the size every three or four days, until the largest sized bougie be admissible, occasionally adding the calomel or turbith mineral, if the discharge should cease, or the stricture continue to obstinately resist the remedy; but this must be performed with great skill and caution, never forgetting the extreme sensibility of the parts, and the danger of exciting too much irritation, which might produce inflammation, &c.

5. The discharge and dilatation being gently continued, in time, the stricture, or whatever caused the obstruction, will be removed.

6. After the obstruction is decidedly removed, which happens sometimes in a few weeks, two or three

Affections, &c.

effects of the urethritis venerea ill treated, corroding the membranes lining the urethra. They likewise arise from that vile practice which whim, not found reason, adopted, in suffering a clap to cure itself, by letting it run its course. This sapient project has been rashly recommended by a few visionists in this and other countries, as a very valuable improvement; and during the issuing of the contagious matter, these artists, to save appearances, boast that they give crumb of new bread formed into pills, and coloured with any colour the honest surgeon pleases. Such duplicity and deception is so disgraceful to the art, that it cannot be too much reprobated and detested. If by this fraudulent stratagem, however, the cure of the disease could be effected, some apology might be offered for the contrivance; but the contrary being the case, and as some unfortunates have been nearly bereaved of life, or, by the trial, rendered miserable as long as they have existed; it is hoped this wild conceit will no longer be practised. To the honour of the profession in general, however credulous some may be, few, very few, have been the dupes of these last squeezings of the extravagant brains of infatuated speculating maniacs; fitter for Bedlam than to be practitioners in surgery *.

III.

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three months, according to cases, constitutions, and circumstances; a simple healing bougie is to be still daily introduced, of the largest size the urethra will bear without any uneasy sensation; until there be every reason to conclude the stricture is completely conquered, and the patient, as far as the case may admit, perfectly cured.

7. The complete cure of a stricture is ascertained by the free evacuation of urine, the removal of every impediment in the erection of the penis, and a powerful ejaculation of the semen in the act of coition.

8. It is an erroneous assertion, that bougies only act by dilatation, and that any simple composition of wax, oil, &c. answers every curative intention. The contrary might be irrefutably proved, by the evident effects of Daran's and other bougies; as likewise by clear reasoning on the structure of the parts affected, and the action of the bougies on the diseases: this, however, is not the present object, and therefore shall be deferred to a future opportunity.

It seems, that those who have made this inconsiderate declaration have never deeply considered, anatomically and physiologically, the functions and peculiarity of the parts concerned or diseased. The

excellent

* I shall give a shocking case, caused by suffering the venereal running to continue, according to this mode.

*Affections, &c.*III. SPONGY EXCRESENCES OF
A LOOSE TEXTURE IN THE
URETHRA.

Some authors have doubted the existence of these soft exerescences; but facts, in numerous instances, have proved their existence. I have seen some few cases where the excrescence has been visible, near the external opening of the urethra, and very lately I was consulted by Mr. Kerrison, my neighbour, formerly a pupil at the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary, for a patient, in which case the excrescence was visible in the external opening of the urethra, soft and granulated, similar to those that sometimes appear on the surface of the glans penis and internal part of the prepuce.

It must be remarked, that the world were first obliged for a consistent, mild, and successful treatment of urethral obstructions, to my late worthy and esteemed friend M. Daran, of Paris. The success of this gentleman, to which I was formerly an eye-witness, raised his reputation through all Europe above the reach of snarling envy, and he has been acknowledged by the greatest and most learned practitioners, by their testimonies published, to have been superior in the disorders for which he was famed, to any other practitioner in the known world. His whole mode of treatment will now be communicated for the benefit of society, which was one

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excellent and evident effects of an increased and artificial discharge, produced by medicated bougies, is in direct contradiction to those sentiments. The great cures, in thousands of instances, performed without any of those disastrous effects and misery, which attend too often the application of *caustic bougies*, by the mild methods here recommended, it is hoped, will have due weight with every humane practitioner; so that all caustic, barbarous applications may be, for ever, banished the art, and human misery not receive additional tortures by such savage, unfortunate, and frequently unsuccessful modes of treatment.

The excrescences appear like those already mentioned, and are not removable, even by repeated mercurial courses, as a multiplicity of experience fully proves. They are not so common as the other causes in obstructing urine. In passing a moderate sized bougie they commonly bleed; but they are with no small difficulty distinguishable from other urethral impediments. The necessary treatment of these cases being very little different from the former two, they may be considered practically in the same point of view. If they be at the end, or towards the end of the urethra, externally, they may be gradually wasted by *solutio penetrans*; or by a solution of *antimonium tartarifatum*, which, skilfully applied,

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of the last humane actions of a life dedicated to remove the most severe afflictions of human misery.

The bougie course of M. Daran's bougies will effectually remove these carnosities, as they have been nominated. Caustic applications, to these exuberances, are extremely hazardous, as they must act equally destructive to the membranous structure of the urethra, as well as on the wart itself, and be productive of an incurable ulcer, instead of acting on the disorder, which they are expected to remove. If the *argentum capariz* Darani should not produce a sufficient suppuration to destroy these excrescences, then æthiops mineral may be rubbed on the part of the bougie where the obstruction is situated, white precipitate or turbith mineral. These methods remove, in general, the three first causes of urethral strictures, ulcers, excrescences, &c.

IV. TUMEFIED AND INDURATED VERUMONTANUM.

This is a case discoverable by passing a bougie, and reflecting anatomically on the distance of the urethral impediment from the external orifice. An examination likewise may be made *per anum*; but the disease of the verumontanum is not so clearly discoverable, as the enlargement of the prostate by similar means. Whoever reflects on the danger of exciting inflammation in this part, with the consequences, or the horrid misery

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applied, safely removes soft excrescences.

Old, or more recent ulcers of the urethra, producing long-continued purulent gleets, which I have seen lately arise, after the cruel and ineffectual application of caustic bougies, are very difficult of cure. The passing of urine prevents the deterring and incarnation of these distressing ulcerous affections. They have, however, been sometimes, though seldom, perfectly cured; but they have been rendered less distressing by deterring them with *lotio penetrans*, with the mercurial powders already mentioned, or by æthiops mineral conveyed to the part; joined with judicious internal alteratives, fumigation, &c. It is little known that a *true æthiops mineral* is one of the best stimulating detergents of venereal and other ulcers.

This is a case very doubtful as to cure. Penetrating alteratives should be prescribed, and fumigations of cinnabar.

To bougies may be united the internal use of *solutio hydrargyri camphorata cum oleo amygdalarum*, to resolve, if possible, the induration. Caustic bougies, in this instance of stricture, have produced hæmorrhage, inflammation, depositions of urine in the cellular structure, mortification, death!

When a cure cannot be accomplished by Daran's method, it is safest

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of burning uncertain caustics, must forbid their use, if it were only to avoid the mischiefs they produce to contiguous parts.

V. SPONGIOUS ENLARGEMENT OF THE PROSTATE GLAND.

This spongiose enlargement of the prostate gland is frequently mistaken for other causes of urethral obstruction. It is therefore necessary to use caution in impediments of urine, lest one disease be treated for another, to the detriment of the afflicted patient.

If these spongiose tumours be very large, they not only impede the evacuation of urine, but likewise partially the excrement, by lessening the diameter, both of the urethra and rectum.

The spongiose tumour of the prostate is only discoverable by the introduction of the finger *per anum*. Previous to this operation, the rectum should be emptied by a laxative and clyster. The patient is to be placed leaning over a chair, with the head bent much lower than the posteriors. The fore-finger then being dipped in oil, having previously injected oil into the rectum with a syringe, the finger is to be introduced, the inside downwards, the reverse of examining the state of the uterus in women. Then gently pressing the finger, thus introduced, on the surface of the intestine, highest to the rectum, any swelling, hard or soft, is easily

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safest to recommend patience, and submission to temporary inconvenience, than to fly to hazardous experiments, which oftener add to the affliction than prove a cure.

These spongiose enlargements of the prostate are often incurable. The remedies necessary are tonics of bark, zinc, steel, &c. dry diet, and every thing corroborating, cold bath, or cold sea bathing.

No bougie can augment the *vis coagitoris*. Caustic bougies have been ignorantly applied in these cases of obstructed urethra with the greatest danger to the patient's life, and without the least probability of success. Patients, under such circumstances, should submit to present inconvenience, to avoid future misery; but, like drowning men, they catch at a straw, believe any bold pretender, fly from honour and integrity, and become the cause of their own destruction. Bougies may be used occasionally as a palliative cure; more should not be attempted, when tonics, &c. do not succeed.

In most cases of urethral impediments, judicious internal treatment is necessary, and a strict and dry regimen; that the secretion of urine may be diminished, and the urine rendered less acrid by the mucilaginous drinks, &c.

All debauches of wine, spirits, &c. should be strictly forbid; but some patients will break through all rules, become the authors of

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perceived by all who well understand the anatomy of the part; by all others the case cannot well be understood.

In this disorder a great resistance is experienced in voiding urine, which is sometimes streaked with blood, and commonly flows with glairy mucus, that sinks to the bottom of the urine.

These cases are not so dangerous as troublesome, unless injudicious remedies be applied. It is one of the diseases that happens in advanced age to persons who have had the venereal infection frequently, in the former part of their life; or to those who have been much addicted to over-exertion in venereal pleasures.

VI. SCIRRUS, OR HARDNESS AND SWELLING OF THE PROSTATE GLAND.

The prostate, like other glands contiguous to the genital parts, from venereal infection, is subject to scirrhosity.

It is discoverable by the introduction of a bougie, and an examination *per anum*, reflecting on the anatomical situation of this urethral gland.

If it be large, it impedes not only the urine, in particular, but likewise, in some measure, the alvine faeces.

It is curable, or incurable, according to the length of time it may have existed; to the degree of induration it may have acquired, and the probability of the patient's con-

stitution.

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their own destruction, and pour forth unmerited abuse on the medical profession.

I remember an eminent physician, who had laboured many years under the present recited affection. He frequently consulted me by letter; but his descriptions failed of giving a precise idea of his complaint; business, however, calling me to the country where he resided, I examined the case *per anum*, and soon found a very enlarged prostate, of a spongy texture. Tonics, cold bath, and all rational remedies, were tried in vain; for he languished many years in misery, and lately died hectic.—What havock would caustic bougies make in such a case?

Hemlock, though commonly prescribed, as in other scirrhouſe glands, always fails; therefore ought to be rejected.

If any person still should doubt the inefficacy of hemlock, let the letter on medical vanity be read, in the first volume of the Rational Practice of Physic; this was written in 1773, and I have had no reason to change my sentiments on this hemlock imposition, which De Haen, on the spot at Vienna, has fully proved, beyond the power of refutation.

Mineral alteratives, fumigations of cinnabar morning and evening, daily, for a considerable time, directed to the anus and perineum, unguentum mercuriale perineo et anu applicandum, mercurial clysters of solutio hydrargyri camphoro-

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stitution co-operating with judicious treatment.

M. Col de Villars observes, that the prostate and Cowper's glands are enlarged; and Astruc is exactly of the same sentiment, when he says, "Par là les prostates et les vésicules séminaires, se trouvant gonflées, presseront l'urethre qui les touche, plus au moins fortement, suivant que les excroissances foncées qui les remplissent, seront plus au moins gonflées et dilatées."

M. de la Faye, that excellent surgeon, who has given a new and improved edition of the Demonstrations of Dionis, observes, "The difficulty experienced in passing the sound in the venereal ischury, is caused by the swelling or inflammation of the prostate."

There are few experienced practical English surgeons, who have not examined and known numerous cases of this nature; the major part of which evils may be traced to owe their origin to astringent injections, or ill-treated recent venereal infection, &c.

VII. ULCER OF THE PROSTATE GLAND.

Discoverable by the same means as the former, and by the discharge of purulent pus, or foul greenish or yellow matter, issuing through the urethra.

It is very difficult of cure, and sometimes incurable. The patient languishes for years with this painful disease and continual drain, with or without

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rata, and a proper regimen, are the most probable means of removing this dreadful disorder.

Bougies, armed with unguentum copaivæ Darani, or ung. mercuriale camphoratum, applied up the urethra, so as never to increase irritation, ought to be used. Success, however, does not always crown the most skilful endeavours to cure; in which case the palliative method should be adopted, of occasionally introducing bougies.

Caustic bougies have produced, in this case, all the evils that reflecting men of experience have foreseen. Incurable ulcers, tortures, mortification, death, have succeeded their application.

A causticating surgeon passed a caustic bougie up the urethra, which immediately produced such a violent bleeding, that a chamber-pot was soon filled with blood. The patient, in a plaintive tone, observing the loss of blood made him faint, the surgeon, with a *sang froid*, replied, Get another pot then, and fill it with blood also!!!

The saline particles of the urine, coming into contact with the ulcer in passing, keep up a constant irritation, and occasion the difficulty of cure. A syringe with a long tube should be passed up the urethra, and the lotio penetrans injected, so as to touch the ulcer, three or four times a day. A stronger proportion than one grain to half a pint of *aqua distillata* would

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without hectic symptoms, and at last perishes.

This is one of the most dangerous effects of astringent injections, and other mal-practices, in treating the urethritis venerea, when recent. A terrible case will hereafter be related of the fatal effects of astringents, which must strike every feeling mind with pity for the sufferer, and vengeance for the authors of human misery.

M. Afruc says, " Que l'ulcère, de léger et superficiel qu'il étoit d'abord, doit devenir nécessairement malin, fistuleux, et calleux; que loin de pouvoir être détergé, il deviendra chaque jour plus sordide, à cause qu'il est continuellement arrosé d'une semence purulente, et d'une urine fort acre."

An eminent physician had nearly lost his life by imprudently suffering a caustic bougie to be applied to the prostate. The quantity of blood lost was immense, and it was with great difficulty restrained.

VIII. CONTRACTION OF THE NECK OF THE BLADDER.

This may arise from nervous sympathy; various diseases of the kidneys, ureters, bladder; from ulcers, tumours, &c. situated near the neck of the bladder, pressing on the sphincter; from various irritating powers; from the part itself being thickened, and in a state of tumefaction.

The *detrusores urinæ*, &c. with difficulty counteract the resistance of

the

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would be too irritating for the sensible membranes of the urethra.

Internally, *solutio antimonialis mercurialis* is proper, or other alteratives, with demulcent drinks, avoiding large draughts of every thing stimulating.

Bougies of *Daran*, armed with æthiops mineral, calomel, are likewise proper; or turbith mineral to deterge the ulcer: but these applications, and all others, should be used with the utmost caution; lest, in endeavouring to remove a distressing evil, evils of much greater magnitude may be experienced.

It should be observed, that a great length of time, joined with the skilfullest management, can alone relieve this terrible affection.

Dry diet, strict regimen, mineral alteratives, fumigations, and medicated suppurating bougies, however, have cured some of these very distressing complaints.

According to the variety of causes, so must this affection be treated. In some cases, antispasmodics, oleaginous mixtures with opium, warm bath, fumigations of cinnabar to the perinæum, anus, &c. are necessary. Whatever the irritating powers may be, after first investigating the cause, they should be, if possible, removed.

Thickened coats of the bladder are often irremediable.

In the contraction, the ingenious

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the contraction, in their efforts to overcome the obstacle. When a stimulus to void urine arises, the whole bladder suffers, and in time becomes diseased. By its frequent exertions it loses a great part of its functions, and it diminishes in the power of dilatation; the usual quantity of urine cannot be retained.

A small portion of water excites a painful desire to evacuate the bladder, which is often effected with great difficulty, in a small stream, by spurts, or drop by drop. Blood or mucus is sometimes mixed with the urine.

IX. CONCRETION OF THE URETHRA.

The concretion of the urethra arises from the surface of the opposite sides being excoriated, or ulcerated; and as the new parts shoot out, the fibres inosculation, forming a bridge or band across the urinary canal.

In this manner fingers, from burns or scalds, if not dressed with separate dressings, have united *.

These bands or concretions of the urethra are commonly of a loose spongeous texture, and are easily broken down by a bougie, if they have not been of long continuance. The difficulty of voiding urine so alarms patients in general, that

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Mr. Jeffé Foot has revived *vesica lotura*, which has succeeded, it is said, in numerous instances.

If alleviation of symptoms alone be the consequence of this practice, it is of great importance to society. It often happens, particularly in old age, that diseases arise, which the art cannot radically cure: in such cases physicians and patients should be content with a palliation of the symptoms.

In some cases a flexible catheter, kept in the bladder occasionally, dilates the contracted neck; but in other instances, the irritation is so great that it is insupportable.

These concretions are prevented if a bougie be introduced before the inosculation be completed; for the tender *fibrillæ* are easily broken down: no violence, however, should be used, lest the case be mistaken.

After a bougie has been introduced beyond the seat of the disorder, the *unguentum copaivæ* of Daran may be smeared on every bougie introduced, until a copious discharge prove that proper suppuration and increased mucal secretion are the consequence. The cure, afterwards, may be effected by the same rules that have been given in the bougie cases, already explained under the first three heads.

As to caustic bougies in these concretions,

* I remember an instance of a man having been burnt on the fingers by a flash of gunpowder; a careless young assistant dressed the wound, without reflecting on the necessity of applying the dressing round each finger, separately, by which means two of them grew together, which I was obliged to separate with a scalpel.

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that before the canal be much obstructed, chirurgical assistance is solicited.

X. ABSCESES, ULCERS, AND LASTLY FISTULOUS ORIFICES IN PERINÆO, COMMUNICATING WITH THE URETHRA, THROUGH WHICH A PART OF THE URINE PASSES.

On suppressing venereal running by powerful *sedatives* or *astringents*, inflammation happens not unfrequently, near the prostate gland, verumontanum, &c. From inflammation, if not cured by resolution, abscesses are formed; sometimes the urine breaks through the ruptured membranes which line the urethra, and fills all the cells of the cellular structure, &c.: in other instances the abscess forms under the urethra, bends its course to some part of the perinæum, and suppurates.

Suppurations in these parts are sometimes slow in their progress, attended with exquisite pain; and the nearer they happen to be seated to the *collum vesicæ*, so much greater will be the irritation, pain in voiding urine, with *tenesmus*, strangury, dysury, and even ischury.

These inflamed tumours, increasing in magnitude and distending the parts, seem to drag the *collum vesicæ* and adjacents out of their exact situation, to stretch, or violently affect the nervous fibres, or surculi, &c. of these very sensible and important

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concretions, who can be certain of their action on the part or parts only to be destroyed? will they not equally act on the *corpus spongiosum*?

If the venereal running be suddenly suppressed by any cause, and symptoms of strangury, dysury, ischury, or total suppression of urine should happen, the discharge should be immediately solicited by a medicated bougie.

All inflammations of the urethra, or commencing abscesses, from suppressed discharge, may be thus sometimes removed if the method be practicable.

It happens in some very violent inflammations from this source, that neither bougie nor catheter can be introduced, without great force and danger to the patient; in which instances, large bleedings from the arm, powerful antiphlogistics, cathartics, penituvium, and universal warm baths, promptly administered and repeated, are first proper; but if these should not succeed, and every rational method of relief fail, in total suppression of urine, three operations are performed, according to circumstances:

Puncture in the perinæum.

Perforation of the bladder through the rectum.

Incision into the bladder above the *symphysis pubis*.

It is for skilful practical surgeons to determine which may be most proper.

In cases, wherein the urine passes

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portant functions, so that the most excruciating tortures are experienced. The rectum, bladder, and urethra, are forced into a violent commotion, and the miseries of the patient, whilst the suppuration is forming its way outwardly, are truly deplorable. If this be not the case in all, yet it happens in many instances. The art of surgery cannot, with judgment, give relief until the matter points and is perceived externally in perinæo, &c. with its usual concomitant of fluctuation, &c.

If the urethra escape, the danger is less; the case is more painful and troublesome than dangerous: but this must be always understood, in proportion as it impedes, more or less, the evacuation of urine, faæces, &c. and as it may be attended with greater or less pain, &c.

It sometimes happens that gangrene is the consequence of these lamentable affections; and if the patient escape death, a loss of parts, greater or less, follows.

The remains of these disasters are fistulous ulcers about the anus and perinæum, from which, if they communicate with the urethra, urine frequently issues, occasioning the greatest misery, sometimes similar to the strongest labour pains; tremors, groans, cries, and lamentations are frequently heard; so that the scene of accumulated misery is dreadful to the feelings of every humane beholder of these frightful afflictions. Sometimes there are

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into the cellular structure, a bougie, or catheter of the elastic gum, should pass down the urethra, and be left in the bladder, that the urine may issue through the catheter, if this be practicable; but to some very irritable patients this is impossible, in which instance the art of surgery is obliged sometimes to relinquish the true indication of cure, and submit *pro tempore* to the contraindication that the great sensibility of the urethra and disease of the parts demand. These are truly calamitous cases: horrid to the suffering patient, and extremely difficult to the most skilful artists in surgery.

By patience, humanity, science, and attention to circumstances, such cases are sometimes conquerable.

When the abscess has formed, it must be opened as early as possible, for delay often produces imminent danger to the parts, which, at times, seem to be affected with convulsive twitchings, total inability to urinate, except in exquisite pain, until the matter of the abscess be evacuated.

When the urine occupies the *corpus spongiosum penis, perinæum, scrotum, &c.* threatening gangrene, all the remedies, both internal and external, for mortification, should be prescribed.

Antiseptics, in the form of fomentations, cataplasms with camphor, &c. bark, vitriolated zinc, vitriolic acid, and opiates, are to be administered in desperate cases. An adherence to sound practice, avoiding

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three or four openings externally, from which the urine is frequently dribbling; and, to add to the tragic scene, the neck of the bladder is so much contracted, that neither bougie nor catheter can pass without more force than prudent practice may permit.

Such have been the consequences of suffering claps to cure themselves, by leaving them to nature: such have been the effects of imprudent astringent and sedative injections. Though I have no inclination to write *caſes*, but rather to give the result of a very long experience; yet the annexed caſe may not here be improper, as a warning to young practitioners *. If caſe-writing

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ing all novel untried projects and experiments, are the only means of saving the genital parts or the patient's life.

The accurate and skilful treatment of fistulous ulcers in perinæo, anu, or adjacent parts, requires a much longer consideration than the brevity of the present work admits.

Fumigations of cinnabar, sponge tents properly prepared, the destruction of external callosities by *cauſticum camphoratum*, alteratives, internally, long continued, and attention to the variety of circumstances accompanying these dreadful complaints, succeed in curing or greatly relieving the most desperate caſes; whilst large incisions, or

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* A gentleman, of great fortune and respectability, applied to the late Mr. John Hunter for the cure of a fresh-contracted clap. He was told that the running should have its *course*, for, if let alone, it would *cure* itself. The confidence of the patient in this eccentric surgeon, induced him to neglect any mode of cure. The running, scalding, &c. were disregarded for many months. The patient then applied to Mr. Tomkins, who threw up astringent injections; as I remember the same gentleman did to an officer in the Guards, which had nearly cost him his life. Inflammation of the urethra, prostate, and perinæum, was the immediate consequence. Three separate abscesses had formed, two in perinæo, and one near the side of the anu. The urine passed through all these openings, and a fourth, that had formed not long before I first saw this truly afflicted patient. The sinuses of all these fistulous ulcers ran in different directions, perhaps to one common trunk, which alone communicated with the urinary canal. The neck of the bladder was so contracted, either by the pressure of indurated swellings, or other causes, that it was with great caution and difficulty the smallest sized bougie could pass. The symptoms attending the caſe were terrible. Every ten minutes or quarter of an hour the patient was thrown into the greatest dread and agitation, from the most torturing irritation, occasioned by the efforts of the stimulated bladder to void the urine. Tremors, groans, lamentable cries, dreadful convulsions and distortions of the countenance and of the whole body, and alternate pallor and floridity in the face, with staring eyes, from straining to overcome the urethral impediments,

were

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writing were my object, I could give a folio volume of various disasters, happening from those rash practices,

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a too free use of the knife, have frequently led the patient to a lingering and painful dissolution.

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were almost constant. The rectum was frequently drawn up with great force, with tenesmus or frequent desire of going to stool. Many external and visible appearances demonstrated the racking tortures experienced internally by the unfortunate patient. Surgeons of the first eminence for skill and probity had been consulted; and it was seldom, with repeated trials, that the smallest catheter or bougie could be passed through the neck of the bladder, so contracted was the canal in that part. When the urine dribbled through the sinuous fistulous ulcers, it was mixed with purulent matter, and what little made its exit through the contracted urethra had the same appearance. Such was the miserable situation of the patient; and all these dreadful symptoms were frequently accompanied with nausea or vomitings, cold shiverings, and frequent symptomatic fever. The patient was nearly exhausted by watchings, anxiety, grief, pain, and despair. Under these circumstances I was consulted by a respectable medical gentleman in attendance; who had seen, in a very bad case of fistulous ulcers about the anus, the success of fumigations, medicated sponge tents, and pilulæ alterantes fortiores, &c. recommended by me, and which the same gentleman condescended to strictly pursue in the present case; for without such implicit acquiescence nothing can be expected in such desperate cases.

From the consideration of this truly deplorable case, in every point of view, it occurred that the following indications of cure were most rational:

1. To alleviate the most pressing symptoms by mucilaginous preparations, anodyne clysters, opiates, and demulcent, innocent, mild diet.
2. To attempt the deterring, incarning, and cicatrising some of the fistulous ulcers by sponge tents, on which was rubbed *hydrargyrum nitratum tuber*, finely levigated.
3. To endeavour to soften the surrounding callosities, and to reduce the ulcers to a simpler and more healing state, by cinnabarine fumigations, applied to the perinæum and orifice of the anus, *mane et nocte*, conveyed by the simple fumigating machine already mentioned.

Amidst all this misery, these plans were most judiciously executed by the attending gentleman; and, by perseverance, two of the ulcers were, in the course of about two months, deterged, incarned, and cicatrised. The third was in a very favourable state, and all the symptoms were greatly mitigated. One of the fistulous ulcers I thought it would be most prudent not to attempt the cure of, were it practicable, lest, in the very contracted state of the neck of the bladder, a total suppression of urine might have been the consequence, mortification, and death. At this time the gentleman was desirous of being removed into the country, to be under the care of a practitioner in whom he placed great confidence, and to whom I communicated every

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practices, which the most learned have ever reprobated.

To the case already recited, another may be added, where an astringent injection produced horrid symptoms, and proved fatal to a medical practitioner, who applied that remedy in hopes of a rapid cure, for the purpose of concealing a gonorrhœa; but the practice brought the unfortunate patient to an untimely grave *.

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It will be necessary to remark, that surgeons in general seem to know very little of the excellent and manifold uses of sponge tents united to proper medicaments, cinnabarine fumigations, and some other important practices in the cure of fistulous, venereal, and cancerous ulcers.

Extraordinary cures are often performed by a complete science of these mild auxiliaries, however they may militate against preconceived opinions and prejudices.

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every idea that I could suggest for his benefit. The case, as may be easily seen by experienced practitioners, was not perfectly curable; but a great part of the most violent symptoms were much mitigated, and, with some inconveniences, a life has been preserved for about four years or more, since I gave my directions to the country practitioner.

* A young married medical gentleman, in my neighbourhood, having contracted a gonorrhœa, and wishing to conceal the disorder from his wife, took the resolution of using an astringent injection.

In a short time the most painful sensations were experienced in the urethra, which, he expressed, was like a flame of fire burning the passage of urine. Soon after succeeded dreadful agonies, and the patient called up the medical gentleman with whom he resided, my most intimate friend, declaring emphatically, that if he had been scarified, peppered, salted, and then broiled on a gridiron, he should not suffer half so much misery as he then felt!

Surgeons of the first eminence were soon consulted, and no exertions that art or humanity could suggest were omitted; but the patient suffered the most frightful tortures. The urine was drawn off, a few days, with great pain and difficulty. Misery succeeded misery. Nothing was heard but dreadful, yet unavailing lamentations. A total suppression of urine, cold shiverings, the concomitant of abscess forming, the most painful symptoms, with a constant effort to urine, without effect : shrieks, groans, tremors, and the most pressing tortures, and cold sweats, convulsions, and faintings, were soon succeeded by the greatest favourer of such calamity, death.

The unfortunate patient prayed fervently for a speedy dissolution, whilst he retained his recollection.

The excellent surgeon, the late Mr. Percival Pott, was called, and with his usual quickness, penetration, prescience, and judgment, declared the

THE composition of Mr. Daran's bougies, unguents, &c. shall be delivered in the original language of the author, by which it will evidently appear, that this great surgeon, for the cure of strictures of the urethra, did not depend on mere dilatation of the urinary canal; but on medicated bougies, capable of acting on the urethral membranes, mucal glands, productive of a discharge that gradually removed thousands of strictures. The joint testimonies in favour of Mr. Daran's bougies are not from obscure medical and chirurgical practitioners; but from many of the most eminent surgeons and physicians that have flourished for these last sixty years, in Italy, France, England, and every part of Europe, and even in the East and West Indies, America, &c. Princes, men of the first rank, merchants, and inferiors of every denomination, have experienced the superior efficacy of M. Daran's skill in those cases, testified by the warmest expressions of gratitude. Proofs so numerous and interesting, cases so decidedly difficult, that had resisted all other previous attempts to cure, leave the high reputation of the inventor above the reach of malevolence and detraction. It only remains for humane surgeons to imitate this author and alleviator of inexpressible misery, and to endeavour, by observation and attention to causes and effects, to acquire, by successful experience, an honourable fame, similar to that which the celebrated M. Daran so justly merited. Just notions of the diseases and remedies will certainly, above all other means, chase from the art of surgery the dreadful application of caustic bougies, which has lately so infatuated many credulous surgeons, who are respectable in most other respects.

case to be abscessed prostate, &c. from the injection, and that it would prove fatal; nor would all the powers of medicine or surgery avert the fatal blow. This prediction was soon verified, and dissection *post mortem* showed ulcer, tumour, and mortification of the neck of the bladder and adjacent parts, &c. &c.

A variety of such cases might be produced; but this being a striking instance of an useful life being evidently lost by the application of astringents to produce a speedy cure; it is hoped it may have a proper weight, and deter future practitioners from the admission of such destructive practices.

COMPOSITION DES REMEDES EMPLOYES PAR M. DARAN DANS
LES MALADIES DE L'URETHRE.

LES BOUGIES.

On en distingue de trois sortes: les grosses, les moyennes, et les petites.

Preparation des premières Bougies.

Il faut prendre des feuilles de ciguë, de nicotiane, de lotier odorant, ou treffe musqué, de fleurs et feuilles de mille pertuis, une grande poignée de chacune, coupées, menues et hacliées. Les mettre dans un chaudron avec dix livres d'huile de noix. Ajoutez une livre, de siente de brebis seche; posez le chaudron sur un feu modéré, et faites bien cuire ces plantes jusqu'à ce qu'elles soient comme rissolées; passez ensuite le tout à travers un linge avec une forte expression. Remettez l'huile dans le chaudron bien nettoyé sur le feu; melez y trois livres de saindoux et trois livres de suif de mouton; et lorsque tout est bien fondu et bien chaud ajoutez-y peu-à-peu huit livres de litarge en poudre bien fine, en remuant toujours avec une palette de bois, pour que le litarge ne s'attache pas au fond du chaudron; laissez bouillir le tout à petit feu pendant une heure; après quoi vous y ajouterez encore deux livres de cire jaune; et vous continuerez à faire bouillir jusqu'à ce que la matière soit d'une bonne consistance *; alors vous y tremperez de

la toile à demi usée, de huit pouces de large sur trente six de long, et vous en couperez de petites bandes en languettes, longues de sept pouces; mais plus, ou moins large, suivant la grosseur des bougies que vous voulez faire. Une ligne de largeur donnera les bougies les plus fines, et ainsi de ligne en ligne jusqu'à quatre, qui sont les plus grosses, ayant toujours egard à l'épaisseur de la toile.

Vous râclerez les petites bandes avec le dos d'un couteau pour les rendre bien unies et bien lissées; vous les plierez sous vos doigts comme un ourlet; et vous les rouleriez sur une table bien unie avec une tablette de bois dur d'un demi pied de long, large de quatre pouces, et d'un demi-pouce d'épaisseur, jusqu'à ce qu'elles soient bien unies; de sorte qu'en les passant entre les doigts ou ne sente aucune inégalité. Elles doivent être plus minces d'un bout que de l'autre, allant toujours en diminuant; et il faut que le petit bout soit arrondi, de façon qu'en l'appliquant sur la joue il ne pique point; alors les bougies sont faites, et on les garde étendues et séparées sur une planche,

* Il est très-essentiel qu'elle ne soit ni trop seche, ni trop molle: trop seche, la bougie se casserait et blesseroit le malade; trop molle, elle se replieroit sur elle-même, et entreroit difficilement.

jusqu'à ce qu'elles soient assez sèches pour ne pas se coller l'une contre l'autre.

Preparation des seconde, ou moyennes Bougies.

Prenez une partie de la composition dont il a été parlé ci-dessus, et deux parties de cire jaune, faites les fondre ensemble, en remuant toujours. Quand le tout est bouillant trempez-y votre toile comme aux premières bougies; et coupez là en petites bandes pour en former des bougies moyennes.

Preparation des troisièmes, ou petites Bougies.

Il faut prendre une partie de la première composition et quatre parties de cire jaune; et pour tout le reste, faire de même qu'aux premières et seconde bougies.

ONGUENT ANTIGONORRHIQUE POUR OINDRE LES BOUGIES DE LA PREMIERE ESPECE, QUAND ON VEUT EN FAIRE USAGE.

Cet onguent est composé de quatre onces de baume de copahu et de deux onces d'empâtre de dia-palme fondu au feu dans le baume. Ensuite il faut y ajouter une once de fiente de brebis bien fine, passée par un tamis, que vous mélerez bien avec une spatule, jusqu'à ce que la matière soit refroidie.

Les autres bougies se frotteront avec de l'huile seulement pour faciliter leur introduction sans quoi elles n'entreront que difficilement et avec douleur.

Preparation des Pilules antivénériennes qu'on fait prendre aux Malades quand les Bougies entrent aisément, et que les Obstacles sont levés.

Prenez du mercure doux, — de la poudre de jalap, — de l'escamoneé, — de la gomme de gayac, De chacune de ces drogues une once; faites en une masse avec ce qu'il faut de sirop de rose solutif; et formez en des pilules de cinq grains chacune, que les malades prendront tous les jours à la dose de deux ou trois pilules le soir en se couchant ou le matin en se levant; si le malade doit être purgé, il en prendra cinq à six suivant les indications et les tempéramens.

A l'égard des ptisannes, elles doivent être adoucissantes et émollientes, légèrement aperatives, préparées avec des fleurs de guimauve, de bonillon blanc, de pas d'âne, d'hypercon, et de feuilles de mauve, de parietaire et autres, toujours avec quelques grains de nitre purifié; le tout suivant les circonstances où se trouve le malade.

A la fin du traitement, on prend des eaux minérales ferrugineuses pendant huit à dix jours, à la dose de deux, trois, quatre livres dans une heure et demie; selon la qualité des eaux. C'est l'usage qui conduit dans ce cas là le médecin et le malade.

These outlines of M. Daran's practice will enable practitioners, not prepossessed in favour of caustic bougies,

bougies, so cruel in their application and so uncertain in their consequences, to adopt these mild modes of cure, which have been attended with every advantage, without the risk of the patient's life, or the production of more misery than was experienced by the strictures.

SPONGE TENTS.

As sponge tents have been much neglected in England, and the freest use of the knife adopted in their stead, in many cases of fistulous sinuous ulcers, gun-shot wounds, and in all cases wherein counter-openings are to be preserved to promote a discharge to dependent parts, or to soften callosities in external openings of sinuous ulcers, &c. &c. it may be necessary to observe, that they are prepared in the following manner :

Fine pieces of sponge are to be first dried, then they are to be dipped in an unguent, composed of one third oil and two thirds yellow wax; or, if required softer, equal parts of oil and wax may be used. As the sponge, thus dipped, cools, it is to be placed in a pres, or covered by a heavy weight between

two boards, and suffered to cool. When used, the sponge thus prepared is to be cut according to the size of the part for which it is to be used, and secured with thread or silk, lest when swelled and dilating the sinus of any ulcer, &c. it would with difficulty be extracted.

The medicaments to be used on the prepared sponge are *hydrargyrus nitratus ruber*, *pulvis sabinae*, or *antimonium tartarifatum*, according to the purposes for which they may be applied.

In all cases wherein only dilatation of the sinus is the object, the sponge tent alone will answer every purpose.

It should be recollectcd, that any cure effected by sponge tents requires patience and perseverance; or no curative effects need be expected. The knife may be more rapid in removing many diseased parts; but it is more cruel than the application of sponge tents. Surgery should adopt the mildest modes of treatment, wherever they may be practicable. Those who cure patients without cruel operations are to be preferred to those, who in most cases, however trivial, have recourse to the destructive scalpel*.

* When first I entered into the profession, and many years afterwards, it was the fashion to make large incisions in most cases, to cut out pieces of the integuments and diseased parts in abscesses, buboes, &c. and to dilate cruelly in gun-shot wounds. Sometimes large openings may be necessary, but in general not; and the surgeon who well comprehends the use of the seton, or Richter's *acus celatus*, will perform wonderful cures, frequently, without many of those barbarous methods, which, to the honour of the present most excellent artists, are daily meliorating, except in urethral strictures.

ON THE PRETENDED RADICAL CURE OF THE FOREGOING
AFFECTIONS OF THE URETHRA BY CAUSTIC BOUGIES;
WITH THE DANGEROUS AND FATAL CONSEQUENCES OF
THE PRACTICE.

ANY medical delusion, that has the air of novelty, however irrational in principle, or destructive in consequences, is sure of obtaining temporary admiration; not only from a certain class in the profession, but from the credulous and uninformed part of mankind in general. The former, as they should know better, are inexcusable, and deserve severe censure; the latter, as their errors arise from an ignorance in the art, merit pity and commiseration.

Amongst many wild projectors of the present day, none have produced more mischief than the patronisers and practisers of *causticated bougies*. The revival of this barbarous practice has been lately affirmed without hesitation, as a new invention; the grand invention and improvement of the late Mr. John Hunter. This assertion is the reverse of truth, as will clearly be proved by extracts from the writings of Ambrose Paré and different authors, for above two centuries. The severe animadversions that will appear on the subject from the most famous practical surgeons, and the most unequivocal proofs of the devastation and destruction of caustic bougies applied to the urethra, it is presumed, will deter all, but the proud, conceited, and obstinate, from ever repeating those acts of cruelty.—*Humanum est errare; sed in errore perseverare diabolicum.*—They have brought an indelible disgrace on that art, which should be always exercised, as much as possible, in the warmest acts of benevolence and humanity, instead of rash and wanton barbarity. The claim of the invention will not be eagerly disputed, when the manifold miseries resulting from it are well known. It will not be the ambitious cities of Greece wrangling for the honour of having given birth to Homer; but quite a different fame must the vain-glorious boasters adopt—the fame of that monster who, sooner than not appear singular for some great, extravagant, and wicked deed, fired the temple of Ephesus, and expired amidst the flames of his own creation, leaving a detestable reputation universally execrated by all posterity.

AUTHORS PRODUCED ON CAUSTIC OR CORROSIVE APPLICATIONS.

AMBROSE PARE.—This eminent practitioner believes that obstructions in the urethra were occasioned by a fungus remaining after ulceration from gonorrhœa. Vide lib. xviii. cap. xii. “ His ut et reliquis ulceribus, accrescit aliquando caro superflua, quæ sœpè impedimento est quò minus semen et urinæ præterlabi et disfluere solitâ et communi sibi viâ possint, unde multorum malorum origo, &c.” He recommends equal parts of brandy and vinegar to be poured on an heated stone placed in a machine (like a cask), on which the patient is seated, so that the vapour may ascend to the perinæum, penis, &c. rubbing the affected parts with an emollient liniment and cataplasim; but if there be suspicion of a venereal taint, he recommends the usual remedies for that disease, applying also a mercurial ointment to the perinæum and penis, a bottle of warm water, or an heated brick covered with cloths, over which a mixture of brandy and vinegar is sprinkled, and says, “ Remolliæ sic carunculæ remediis convenientibus sunt consumendæ.” If there be no discharge, a hollow catheter is to be introduced, through which a rough-pointed wire is made to pass; by this instrument the surface of the obstruction is rubbed off: a detergent powder, composed of pul. sabinæ, ochre, antimony, and tutty; or a plaster, with alum, verdigris, auripigmentum, and diachylon, is to be put on the end of a candela (bougie), applied to the part, and continued till the urine flows in a full stream: a ferruginous astringent injection, or a bougie covered with desiccative ointment, is then used until the ulceration be perfectly healed.

ALFONSUS FERRIUS, a Neapolitan, who wrote about the year 1537, *De Caruncula sive Callo*, recommends emollient injections and liniments as preparatives; afterwards he says, “ Convenit inter medicæ rei professores carunculam hanc sponte naturæ nullo modo, nulloque tempore sanari posse nisi beneficio artis adjuvetur: naturæ enim sponte augetur potius quam ulla ejus diminutio fiat, &c.” After the use of injection and liniments, a bougie (candela), partly covered, smeared with a proper ointment, is to be introduced; he observes, “ Sed illud præ oculis semper est habendum, ne erodentia medicamenta liquida, aut lenia unquam immittantur; majus enim detrimentum quam adjumentum sanis locis atque adjacentibus sequeretur; adeo etenim urinarii meatûs tenella substantia est; ut molestiora medicamenta qualia erodentia ferre non possit,” &c. *

* We find this anatomist and surgeon condemning the use of escharotics to the urethra, so early as 1537; consequently caustics must have been used before that time.

He divided the remedies into three classes, mild, stronger, and strongest: amongst the first are alum and pomegranate-shell united with a cerate of cerusse, or diachylon: amongst the remedies of the second order are found juice of squill, &c. &c. †

During the discharge of pus, after the application of these remedies, he recommends an emollient or detergent lotion, and observes, “ *Sunt qui in hisce lotionibus ad extreum remedium argentum vivum mortificatum dissolvant.* ‘ *Quo, internis præcipue partibus, me judice, si ullo alio ‘ medo fieri possit omnino abstinendum est.*’ —In declinatione item candelæ aut plumbeum specillum aliquo unguento conglutinante aut cicatricem inducente immitendum est: veluti unguento de minio, de lithargyrio, plumbo,” &c. *

FORESTUS, one of the greatest practitioners in Europe, who was sent for to Leyden, and was first public professor, in his *Praxis Medicinæ*, judiciously recommends for *ardor urinæ*, laxatives, emollient and diuretic decoctions, refrigerants, and sometimes venæfection.

To remove excrescencies in the urethra, he advises *candelalæ ceræ* (bougies), with escharotic and detergent ointments of verdigris, auripigmentum, alum, &c. And to the fistula in *perinæo*, detergent lotions are to be applied. This great man, who was a much better physician than surgeon, liberated the people at Delft from the plague. He was born 1522, and died 1597. During his life he was one of the brightest ornaments of the profession; he lived esteemed, and died universally regretted.

SCULPTUS.—In the *Armentarium Chirurgiæ* of Sculenus, published near one hundred and fifty years ago, are seen plates of the various instruments until that time used in every operation of surgery. *Tabula 40. fig. v.* an instrument used to apply remedies to obstructions

† Auripigmentum, or yellow arsenic, is a very sharp caustic, and is the principal ingredient in Plunket's caustic for destroying cancerous indurations, &c.: it is very potent as an escharotic.

* This great man, teacher of anatomy at Rome, first surgeon to Pope Paul III. who was elected 1534, published *De Ligni Sancti multiplici Medicina et Vini Exhibitione Libri IV.* Basileæ 1538. The above extract is taken from another of his books, entitled, *De Carunculâ sive Callo.* The following extract is taken from *Dizionario Storico della Medicina.*

“ Ferro (Alfonso) Napolitano. Dottor delle arti e della medicina. Insegnò nella sua patria la cirugia; alcuni dicono ancora, che la esercitasse di poi in Roma, in qualità di primo cerusico di Paolo terzo Sovrano Pontifice eletto nel 1534. Per altro, Alfonso Ferro fu dotato di una mente penetrante e si era dato tutto allo studio delle buone lettere e della medicina. In Roma esercitò la natomia e con molto plauso la insegnò nel pubblico Liceo Romano; vede Mendosio in *Vitis Archiatr. Pontif.*”

in the urethra. "Non raro *caruncula ex ulcere in meatu urinario* oritur *," atque ita interdum augetur, ut urinam suppressat. Hæc manuali opere et idoneis medicamentis extirpatur, quæ erodendi vim obtinent; ne tamen aliæ partes quam sola caruncula in meatu erodantur, urinave medicamenta applicita profluens eluat. *Hieron Fabricius ab Aquapendente* excogitavit instrumentum, cuius beneficio nihil nisi caruncula exeditur, prohibeturque ne medicamentum carunculæ admotum ab urinâ, quæ sæpius excernitur, elui possit. Fit autem cannula (vide tabulam) G ex linteo, cerâ albâ oblinito (longitudine digiti transversi et latitudine eâ ut æquet argenteum catheterem I) quæ filum longum habeat appensum. Hæc cannula, prius tamen extra idoneo medicamento oblita sit ut,

R Mell. inciner. usci,
Tutiae præp.
Butyri recent. in aq. plantag. loti,
Terebinth. similiter lotæ,
Ceræ flavæ ana 3 fls.,
Aluminis usci 3 fls.

"M. f. linimentum: quod crebra experientia teste, carunculas meatûs urinarii absque dolore et sanarum partium excoriatione consumit. Quidam experimentum Rochi Cervieri summis laudibus extollunt.

R Pulv. ♀ viv.
Merc. præcipit.
Viridis æris,
Antim. crud. ana 3 iij,
Ceræ albæ 3 j.

"Misce in mortario plumbeo ad formam unguenti. Cannula igitur medicamentorum uno oblinita, stylo extra fistulam argenteam prominenti H (vide tab.) adaptetur, atque una cum argentea fistula et stylo in urinarium canalem immittatur, donec occurrat carunculæ, et cum jam est in loco carunculæ argentea fistula cum suo stylo retrahatur, cannula verò, ex linteo cerâ inducto parata et immissa, relinquatur in. meatu, ut per eam urina excernatur, quæ simul prohibet ne medicamentum carunculæ admotum ab urina elui possit."

WISEMAN.—This author, when treating of the ill consequences of a gonorrhœa, mentions obstructions in the urethra, for the cure of which he recommends laxatives, a cooling regimen, and wax candles (bougies), &c. the ends of which have a small quantity of plaster, composed of verdigris, auripigmentum, aluni, &c. endeavouring to pass the obstruction: occasionally fomentations and emollient liniments to the perinæum.

* It may be observed, that obstructions in the urethra, for above one hundred years, were supposed to arise from fleshy excrescences; but dissections prove, that though these sometimes exist, yet they were not so frequently the cause as callous contractions from cicatrices, &c. &c.

“ But if, after the use of emollients, you cannot pass the caruncle, you may well conclude it callous. In which case you may pass a canula into the urethra to that caruncle, and whilst you hold that there steady, you may convey a grain of caustic into the canula, and press the caustic to it; and whilst you hold it there, you will perceive its operation by the pressing forward of the canula. The caruncle thus consumed, cast in a lenient injection daily; and if you take notice of his urine, you may see the separation of the sloughs, as rags in it: *after which*, you may, by the common medicated candles, wear away the remainder, and with injections cicatrize it. You must expect *a bleeding*, and it is not done without pain; the urethra being of exquisite sense, that pain sometimes accompanied with *rigor* and fever.”

It seems Wiseman likewise used verdigris, alum, red precipitate, aripigmentum, &c. or some of these medicaments levigated repeatedly in vinegar, reduced to a powder by exsiccation, and united to a plaster, which was applied in the common manner.

SAVIARD.—That great and excellent practitioner, chief surgeon to the *Hotel Dieu*, at Paris, has delivered two of the most horrid instances of the destructive effects of *caustic bougies* applied to the urethra by daring ignorance, that ever disgraced the art of surgery. These cases, and other proofs of a similar nature, deterred all learned, skilful, and humane surgeons from adopting this method for nearly a century. How it has happened, that the present race of causticators were not apprized of these facts, it is impossible to determine; for if they had, humanity would have saved many human victims, that are now daily sacrificed at the altars of daring and obstinate rashness.

SAVIARD'S CASES.

“ May 24, 1692, I was sent for to the suburbs of St. Anthony, to examine a person who had retention of urine, occasioned by a wax candle (*bougie*) being thrust into the penis, which he had purchased of an empiric, who boasted of his skill in curing carnosities.

“ The bougie, being armed with a strong caustic, had made a considerable eschar in the sphincter of the bladder, and much inflamed the canal of the urethra. A cystis was formed in the place of the eschar, wherein the urine fell, instead of passing by the natural channel to be discharged through the penis; however, I passed my catheter across the cystis, and thrust it into the bladder, in order to discharge the urine.

“ I perceived the blackness of the internal gangrene in perinæo through the integuments, notwithstanding; and the violence of the distemper induced me to desire a consultation to strengthen the design I had of performing the operation called a puncture in perinæo, to facilitate the application of medicines to the disorder; neither had I room to expect that I could introduce

introduce my catheter into the bladder a second time with the same success I had done before.

“ Messrs. Besliere and Marechal were called in; who were of opinion, that, for the more speedy relief of the patient, whose bladder was distended by a large quantity of urine, it would be proper to introduce immediately a catheter to evacuate that excrement. But the putrefaction had made so great a progress, that the parts affected forming no canal, it was impossible, as I had before predicted, to pass my instrument beyond the cystis formed by the eschar, and consequently to evacuate more urine than was contained in that.

“ Nevertheless, the inflammation of the bladder, occasioned by burning the urethra, had communicated itself to the abdomen, which was perceptible by its violent and painful tension. The patient lost his strength, and all the hopes remaining depended on the success of this puncture. I performed it, in the presence of these gentlemen, upon the canulated probe introduced into that cavity, and then passed a small female catheter into the bladder by the incision I had made before, and repeated the introduction of it three or four times per day, to evacuate the urine during the life of the patient; for the inflammation of the abdomen increased so fast, that shiverings, vomiting, and hiccup supervened, which were the forerunners of death.

“ A priest, of St. Genevieve des Ardents, came to the hospital at the same time, cruelly tormented by the effect of such another bougie; but the accidents were so sudden and violent, that there was no time for relief, the poor ecclesiastic dying in twenty-four hours.”

These murderous effects of caustic bougies ought to be held out as a beacon to warn all future practitioners to avoid such shocking practices, for which the authors merited capital punishment, though they escaped with impunity.

It might, indeed, be urged as an excuse, that M. Daran’s method of treating urethral obstructions was not known at that period; but what excuse can the present destroyers of human life frame as a justification of their cruel, most cruel! and often fatal projects?

VERDUN published, in 1703, *Pathologie de Chirurgie*. After giving the practice of his time, similar to preceding authors, he says, that some practitioners even applied the actual burning red hot cautery, &c. His words are, “ Il y a des praticiens qui se servent d’un petit tuyau d’argent, qu’ils introduisent dans l’uretre jusqu’au près de la verruë; ensuite ils passent dans le tuyau une soudure un peu rouge pour servir de cautere; on en touche legerement la verruë: mais cette opération est fort douloureuse et difficile à executer. Après ils font des injections avec de l’eau-rose, dans laquelle l’on a fait dissoudre un peu de vitriol, avec de la tuthie.”

Here is proof positive, that a sound, made nearly red-hot in fire, is passed through a tube to destroy the excrescence, and to serve as an actual cautery. Is it possible to conceive any application more irrational or barbarous? It is sufficient to make all human nature shudder at the cruelty of such surgery: well might the author say that the operation was *very painful and difficult to perform*. How lost to all sensibility must those have been who applied such a fiery remedy to so exquisitely sensible a part as the urethra!!!

ASTRUC.—It may, perhaps, be superfluous to bring forward the words of this great practitioner, after having so frequently mentioned his sentiments in other parts of the work; but it should be remembered, that he was the first person who collected the practice of every author before him, and gave a complete history of the venereal disease; he was well aware of the mischiefs produced by corrosives, first brought into practice by Alderet, professor of medicine at Salamanca in Spain, and afterwards used by most succeeding authors, as seen by the extracts from their writings in the preceding pages, until repeated and fatal experience compelled every rational practitioner to relinquish them *. It would be unnecessary to adduce the various arguments for the total abolition of the practice (Traité des Maladies Veneriennes, lib. 3. ch. iv.): he was, however, decidedly averse to the application of such violence, and says, “ This method, which has been so long abandoned, and now only employed by ignorant empirics (*charlatans ignorans*), was succeeded by another, apparently preferable; but which has fallen into similar disuse,” &c. He then describes those cruel operations of cutting into the urethra, destroying the

* “ Cette methode d'employer les corrosifs pour extirper les caroncles de l'urethre a été inventée et mise en œuvre pour la premiere fois par ALDERET, professeur en medecine de Salamanque et maître d'Amatus Lusitanus, qui avoue l'avoir apprise de lui dans sa *Centurie 4. Curat 19.*”

“ On dit qu'un certain *Philippe Portugais*, empirique, l'apprit ensuite d'Amatus tandis qu'en qualité de serviteur il lui aidoit à panser un soldat, qui étoit fort malade des caroncles de l'urethre. Ce qu'il y a de certain c'est que ce même *Philippe* s'acquit de la réputation par cette pratique, suivant le tembinage d'*André Lacuna* dont sa *methode d'extirper les carnosités de l'urethre*, pag. 6. et qu'à Rome il guerit quantité de malades et eut' autres *Ferdinand de Cardonne*, *Almiralli de Naples*, et *Louis Caravajelle*. Enfin *André Lacuna* dans son livre imprimé en 1551, publia cette methode qu'il dit lui avoir été depuis peu communiquée par ce *Philippe*, et dont il croyoit celui ci étoit l'inventeur. Mais au surplus cette methode étoit autrefois pratiquée tant part cet empirique *François de Nation*, qui florissoit à Venise vers l'an 1555, que par *Godefroy Gjannati*, autre empirique Italien, qu'on dit avoir guéri les carnosités de *Charles IX. roi de France*.”

cause of obstruction, and healing the external wound, as particularly mentioned by Sharp in his Critical Inquiry.

M. COI DE VILARS, speaking of habitual strangury, mentions five modes of treatment, of which cathartics or corrosives are the first; the incision of the urethra the second; graduated bougies the third; the introduction of tents the fourth; sounds of lead, likewise graduated, the fifth.

“ The first writers,” says this learned author and great practitioner, page 222, “ accuse excrescences as the only cause of this malady; they endeavour to consume them by the means of corrosives or caustics, which they introduce into the urethra with bougies; but these remedies *inflame, corrode, and ulcerate* the canal, and consequently augment the evil.”

PALFY N.—“ There are practitioners sufficiently rash, who attempt to open the passage of urine by means of bougies, armed with remedies that corrode and consume; but it happens that caustic rash remedies augment the dépôt and inflammation, and cause a total suppression of urine; but if these cathartic and consuming modes even succeed in opening the passage of urine, in causing a suppuration of the swellings or obstructions, and in cicatrising the ulcers by other bougies, charged with desiccatives or drying remedies, and dilating the canal afterwards by graduated leaden probes, and which renders the passage of urine free; yet this succour and apparent relief is not always of *long duration*; for *new ulcers*, formed by the caustics or consuming remedies, will render the canal more susceptible of inflammation. If the patient be irregular, or contract a fresh gonorrhœa, the acrid urine causes *new swellings* and *obstructions* about the *multiplied cicatrices*, and the urine lodging, and having acquired a supreme degree of acrimony, excoriates and pierces the urethra, and reflowing on all sides, forms fistulous abscesses in different parts of the scrotum, &c. in a manner, that the urine passes out by these sinuosities, instead of the ordinary canal; and when these fistulous ulcers have remained a long time, they are *not curable*, except by making large incisions in the scrotum, in order to suppurate all the callosities, &c. How many miserable objects have lately suffered, and are suffering at this moment, not only in London, where they suppose the caustic practice is best conducted, but in different parts of the kingdom, and in all parts of Europe, wherever this rash caustic practice has lately prevailed?”

M. DE LA FAYE, who has illustrated Dion's Surgical Lectures by copious and learned observations, when treating of operations about the parts of generation, admits excrescences in the urethra, contrasted cicatrices, swelling of the prostate gland, amongst the most usual causes of impediments in discharging the urine; he notices the fatal effects of *caustics* applied to the urethra, as described by *Saviard*, and mentions the appearances observed by himself when dissecting persons, who were destroyed by

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the practice, which he reprobates in the strongest language, and expresses astonishment that any persons *dare attempt such violence*, after the numerous attested facts of its destructive influence: *fistulous ulcers*, *mortification*, and other *alarming affections*, have been, says he, the *immediate consequence*. "Il est étonnant après cela qu'on ose aujourd'hui se servir des moyens si dangereux. J'ai ouvert des cadavres de personnes qui avoient été traitées par cette méthode, et j'y ai trouvé dans le tissu cellulaire de l'uréthre, des sinus de la longeur de deux pouces ou environ, et qui s'étendoit vers la glande prostate supérieure. J'ai remarqué que ces sinus rendoient du pus, qu'ils étoient calleux, parfaitement ronds et assez grands pour qu'on y pût introduire une bougie, et que leur ouverture étoit située au même endroit que obstacle qui avoit causé la retention d'urine; ce qui prouve, que ces sinus étoient des fausses routes formées par les bougies chargées de caustiques, ou par les sondes tranchantes," &c. &c.

DARAN, whose experience was superior, in obstructions of urine, to any other practitioner that ever existed, says, "It is necessary to proscribe the practice of *caustics*, &c. as they inflame, excoriate, corrode, and ulcerate the urethra; but they do worse mischief, for they act not always upon the *part* intended to be *consumed*; and they corrode and *destroy sound parts* that we have an interest in *preserving*. I have seen destructive examples of this amongst patients, where the *caustic* has *left the excrescence intended to be consumed*, and hath produced in the neighbouring parts a *fistula*, with a considerable *loss of substance*, not only of the *canal*, but also of the *membrane*, which covers the cavernous bodies."

After much more sensible reasoning, the skilful author says, "J'ajouterai aux raisons solides qu'apporte M. Astruc pour prouver que, *loin de soulager la strangurie*, les *corroffs* ne peuvent que l'*augmenter*, que n'agissant qu'en produisant des irritations, ils doivent plutôt *rétrécir* le canal, qu'en procurer la *liberté*."

Then follow many reasons, in conjunction, of Col de Vilars and Astruc, against the dreadful operation of laying open the urethra; but our great surgeon Sharp and others have sufficiently reprobated that horrid cruel practice.

Leaden probes or sounds have broke in the urethra, a part of which made its way into the bladder, and formed the nucleus of a stone; or the unfortunate patient has been obliged to submit to most cruel, sometimes fatal, operations for its extraction.

Mr. SAMUEL SHARP, late surgeon at Guy's Hospital, whose great experience and correct judgment have universally been acknowledged by every learned and candid practitioner, in his Critical Inquiry into the present State of Surgery, one of the last productions of this truly great

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man, after immense practice many years, amply treats of the diseases of the urethra and their cure.

After mentioning that obstructions of the urethra are mostly in consequence of gonorrhœa, he says, "The subject I am here treating of naturally leads me to the consideration of *strictures* in the *urethra*; and as the method of curing them by *suppurative bougies* is not yet generally understood, I shall inquire into the nature of their effects upon this disorder, and also into the nature of the disorder itself.

" But the suppurative power of certain bougies has been so often mentioned by preceding writers, that an unwary reader is apt to conclude, from this circumstance, there is no essential difference in *Daran's* method from that practised heretofore; but whoever will give a proper attention to what is written on this subject, will find that those who speak of suppurating bougies often confound them with escharotic bougies, and do not ascribe those wonderful effects to a continued suppuration, which *Daran* lays so much stress on, nor indeed speak of it with any great eulogium; nay, *Wifeman*, who seems to have given more histories of cures wrought by the bougie than any one except M. *Daran*, says, 'That if a flux of matter be brought on by the bougie, we must desist from the use of it, until the discharge be stopped by proper internal remedies.' In short, there is not one modern writer who does not advise the *urethra* to be laid open in order to destroy any stubborn obstructions, so little are they aware that by the constant application of a *gentle suppurative bougie*, they might at last be reduced and the passage opened.

" The several affections of the urinary and seminal parts, in which the bougies may be usefully employed, are, 1. The mere contraction of a portion of the urethra. 2. Ulcerations at the extremities of excretory ducts of the prostate gland, the vesiculæ seminales and the glands of the urethra yielding sometimes a plentiful, sometimes a small gleet. 3. Callosus cicatrices of former ulcers. 4. Caruncles, called also carnosities and excrescences, which have arisen from the surfaces of former ulcers. 5. A scirrus, or spongy enlargement of the verumontanum. 6. A scirrus of the prostate or vesiculæ seminales. 7. A spongy enlargement of the *corpus spongiosum urethrae*."

Mr. Sharp then observes, that strictures of the urethra are sometimes many years before they are formed, and that the slightest obstruction may cause stranguries, suppressions of urine, and even fistulas in *perinæo*, which yield very soon to a proper bougie treatment.

He then takes a survey of the different methods of cure used in former and present practice, the disadvantages of wax-candles, leaden and whale-bone probes, application of a tent fastened by a piece of thread, as formerly described; the preference given by some practitioners to catgut bougies;

bougies ; the danger of pressing, with violence, into the urethra, by which a perforation of the rectum has been occasioned : in fact, after enumerating the great advantages of suppurating bougies, which, he affirms, act partly by distension and partly by the discharge produced, he says,

" However, in all times there have been *enterprising men*, who have endeavoured, by *escharotic* applications at the extremity of their bougies, to make way through those obstructions which resist the bougie, or leaden probe; and, to say the truth, this practice has been *avowed* by the ablest surgeons of the two last centuries; but at present it is universally *condemned*, and, indeed, has been so almost ever since *Saviard's time*.— (See his cases.)

" The objections to the use of caustics were, the difficulty, and almost the impossibility of directing them so as to *eat* through all the diseased parts of the urethra, without *destroying* the sound part; the impracticability of preventing the urethra from *contracting* when it healed, as much, if not more than it was at the time of applying the escharotic: and lastly, the *pain* was so excruciating, and perhaps the application sometimes so *poisonous*, that an immediate mortification of the scrotum, penis, and bladder, was sometimes known to ensue; and upon these accounts the use of escharotics seems to have been entirely rejected, and another kind of process has been established in their place, which in point of severity is nearly, if not quite, as exceptionable."

He then describes the *cruel incisions in perineo*, laying open the urethra in part, or along its whole extent, afterwards removing the obstructions by the knife, or escharotics, and healing the urethra upon a catheter: and again recurring to the evident superiority of medicated bougies, he says, " Perhaps it will be suggested, that if this (distension) be the principal action of the bougie, any kind of bougie distending the urethra and preventing the corrugation of the ulcer, will put it into a disposition of healing: but experience shows that every species of application is not suitable, some acting with much more innocence and benefit than others." Again he says,

" Nevertheless, I would not be understood, by what I have here said, that it is only the consistence of the plaster, and not its medical virtues, that are to be considered: I have no doubt, that in most cases those virtues are necessary, though I am still of opinion that several of the plaster bougies formerly used, would, with assiduity, have cured some ulcers; but surgeons, hitherto, have had so little notion of stopping mere *gleets* by *bougies*, that I do not so much as meet with an insinuation of this practice."

He then enters into a detail of the various causes of obstruction, men-
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tions the contradictory opinions of eminent men on the existence of caruncles, carnosities, or excrescences, and continues :

“ I believe it will seldom happen that caruncles are not accompanied with either a stricture, callous cicatrices, or protuberances of the *corpus spongiosum urethrae*, in which case the caruncles make only a part of the obstruction, and possibly may not be often bigger than the head of a pin ; but those who have examined the urethra after death, expecting to find them of a considerable bulk, and not meeting with such, have, in all likelihood, frequently overlooked these small appearances (probably diminished also by death), and concluded there were no such things. That such small excrescences may occasion violent disorders in so tender an organ as the urethra, I have had occasion to see a notable instance in the urethra of a virgin, where they grew in a small quantity upon the orifice of the meatus urinarius, and for many months had produced the most excruciating torment, which continued till I had totally extirpated them.

“ Yet notwithstanding what has been so positively said, that *caruncles* have no existence but in the fancy, I have opened some urethras where they were evident. In one I found, near the verumontanum, a filament running across the urethra, which had obstructed the entrance of the catheter, and the patient died of a suppression of urine. In another I found small filaments, some loose, and one three quarters of an inch long, attached at both ends to the urethra, but running in the direction of the canal. In a third, besides the contraction, I found a small excrescence, not unlike one of the *tricuspid valves of the heart*; which, with the instances I could produce from others, prove that the doctrine of *caruncles* is not without foundation.”

Our ingenious author then enumerates a fungous enlargement or tumefaction of the *corpus spongiosum urethrae* amongst the causes of urethral obstruction, and compares it with a distension of the pituitary membrane of the nose, which he has seen *swell* and *expand* so much, as entirely to shut up the nostrils: in such tumefaction of the urethra he recommends bougies, and observes, “ The good effects wrought upon it by the bougies will not be difficult to account for; since a continual discharge from a loaded tumefied part seems a very natural means for reducing the tumour.” Again he says,

“ One of the chief ends proposed by the bougie being to procure a discharge from the ulcers and the lacunæ of the urethra; the composition must not be of an *astringent* nature, as is evident from the effects of *astringent injections*. Desiccative plasters are a kind of *astringent*, and by checking the discharge, which would be brought on by their irritation, the urethra becomes inflamed, and renders their action of no effect; be-

sides that generally, through want of a proper degree of suppuration, their continuance in the urethra for a sufficient length of time is insupportable.

“ To obviate any liableness to inflammatory disorders of the urethra, or genital parts, it is of great importance that the patient should live temperately, and even enter into a cooling regimen during the treatment.

“ It would surprise any body, not acquainted with these cases, to see what *monstrous tumours* subside, and what *foul fistulas* digest and heal, from the mere opening of the urethra, and the proper treatment of the obstructions,” &c. When speaking of manual operations about these parts for fistulæ, obstructions, &c. he says,

“ But in all the examples where cutting appears necessary, I believe it will be judicious, first to make a passage, if possible, into the bladder, and wait the issue of that process, before any operation be performed; because, as I have already intimated, the effects of opening the canal are sometimes very wonderful, and will often spare the knife.”

Thus have we endeavoured to illustrate the practice of this great man, chiefly, by adducing his own words, and it must appear evident that his leading principles were not merely a wedge-like compression, but a mixed treatment, “ *partly by compression and partly by suppuration.*” Without violence, dreadful operations were by such means generally obviated. The immense practice of Mr. Sharp, united with his accurate knowledge of the structure and functions of the affected parts, his clear and unaffected manner of writing, totally void of ambiguity and evasion, his well-known integrity and professional eminence, place his assertions beyond the reach of envious or interested detraction. But why this eulogium? why this defence of a practice, of which every unbiassed practitioner, who has had frequent opportunities of observing with attention, must approve? In fact, every well-informed surgeon will allow that there is a broad medium between the simple dilatation or distension of a part and its total destruction by caustic. Can any man dare to assert, that if wax and oil, in form of a bougie, will not remove a stricture, nothing will succeed but lunar caustic? But facts, thousands of well-authenticated, incontrovertible facts, in this and other countries, prove the superior efficacy of medicated bougies in urethral obstructions.

HEISTER.—This most excellent of modern surgeons, professor of surgery and physic at Altdorff and Helmstadt, author of the most complete system of surgery ever published, after a practice of near fifty years, mentions the mischievous effects of caustics (rodentia) in urethral obstructions, and says, “ *Medicamenta rodentia prorsus hic inania, quin potius noxia sunt; e contrario, ubi difficultas reddendæ urinæ ab ulcere, vel cicatrice in urethra vel in inflammatione ejus, specillis plumbeis vel cereis, oleo inunctis curatio optime obtinebitur.*” By this we find he reprobates

reprobates the use of violent corrosive methods, and affirms that such diseases are curable by a milder treatment.

LE DRAN, F. R. S. and late senior surgeon of La Charité at Paris, in his *Operations in Surgery*, when speaking of obstruction in the urethra inducing *fistulæ in perinæo*, &c. says, "The only means to prevent this is by softening the callosities, bringing the ulcer to suppurate, enlarging the canal, and, in a word, by removing the original cause of the disease.

" All these intentions may frequently be answered by the use of bougies armed with medicines, agreeable to the state of the disorder, and carefully introduced through the *urethra* into the bladder. The medicines made use of on these occasions should by no means be irritating; and, for this reason, I should absolutely reject the use of any caustic introduced into the *urethra*, on pretence of destroying the excrescences, since, as I have learned from experience, they serve only to eat into the canal."

MR. JESSE' FOOT.—This gentleman has given public lectures on the venereal disease and its consequences, and written a criticism on the new doctrines and opinions of the late Mr. John Hunter; he has treated the subject with much justice, but rather ironically. When speaking of strictures in the *urethra*, their history, former and present method of cure, he laments the contradictory opinions of authors on the affection, from 1550 to 1786, although the general mode of cure was not materially altered by their various conjectures of its cause; he attacks with becoming fortitude the daring assertion of Mr. Hunter, that dilatation or ulceration by the simple bougie, and destruction by lunar caustic, were the only means of removing stricture; and says, " I have perused the whole of the Professor's (Mr. Hunter's) chapter on the treatment of the permanent stricture, and I find that one of these weak bougies is the only remedy the Professor makes use of to cure the stricture by dilatation; but if this fails, the mode of cure by dilatation is to be abandoned, and his ulcerative method, or rather his method by escharotics, are to come next into play."

He then mentions a process by which strictures are removed, and says modern practice is not justified in the use of such violent and dangerous resources as caustic, without a trial of milder methods: but let him speak for himself: " Has the Professor never heard of catgut bougies being in use? Has he never heard it hinted that they had a preference on many accounts to the feeble slender bougies which he recommends? Has the Professor never read any authors who have recommended them? Does not he know that they are now brought into general practice from their preferable advantages? If he has not heard of them, he is yet to be informed. If he has heard of them, he has abused his readers by his contemptuous silence. And if he does not know of their application, and more certain success in overcoming the most contracted strictures,

he has yet to learn what the whole body of surgeons are already acquainted with."

Mr. Foot coincides in sentiment with those truly great practitioners, Le Dran, Astruc, Saviard, and Sharp, in lamenting the excessive danger of caustic acting on parts excluded from our sight, and perhaps destroying such as did not conduce to the removal of the obstruction; and observes, "The most eminent of the profession that had last written upon the subject execrated the idea, and flung it out of practice."

He then severely attacks Mr. Hunter on the arrogance of assuming the discovery of applying caustic to the urethra, in 1752, which had been mentioned; particularly by Wiseman, above fifty years before, and by most succeeding authors, especially Sharp in his Critical Inquiry, published 1750, in which diseases of the urethra and their cure occupy near one hundred pages, and concludes the observation by a very appropriate quotation from Johnson: "Even a man, whose genius qualifies him for great undertakings, must be content to learn, at least, from books the present state of human knowledge; that he may, not ascribe to himself the invention of arts generally known, weary his attention with experiments, of which the event has been long registered, and waste in attempts that have already succeeded or miscarried, that time which might have been spent with usefulness and honour upon new undertakings."

In Mr. Foot's quarto volume, page 302 & seq. he mentions the ineffectiveness of caustic, and says, "I myself know but of very few instances where caustic, if it could be applied safely, and if it could be brought to act on the intended parts, can effect a cure. *When the urethra is thickened for some length, that cannot be said to be a case for caustic. When the prostate gland is diseased, that cannot be said to be a case fitting for caustic. When there is an ulcer formed near the neck of the bladder, the caustic would only precipitate the danger of it. When the glands in general throughout the urethra are scrophulously affected, and when the lacunæ of them are diseased, in such cases caustic could do no good.* It must appear very strange, and the importance of some must be not a little sunk, when it is considered that this application of caustic is recommended indiscriminately by them in every stricture that offers within the urethra."

M. TEYTAUD, now in full practice at Paris.—This is one of the most modern authors who has written on gonorrhœa and its consequences, as urethral obstructions, &c. He has, by actual dissection, found ulcers of various size, with callous edges, fungus in the urethra, cicatrices of former ulcers, and contractions impeding the free passage of the urine.

Not to enter too minutely into the treatment of every affection irrelevant to the present subject; his practice in cases of stricture shall only be noticed.

After animadverting on the variety of causes that may produce urethral obstruction, he observes, that they are curable by proper bougies: he, at first, embraced the doctrine of mechanical distension, by simple bougies, being alone necessary; but he frankly confesses that, from repeated failures, in a variety of cases, he became fully convinced that their *composition* should be *various* according to the affection.

He then observes, that the success of this practice has been clearly proved under the inspection of M. M. De Horne, Doublet, Thouret, and Jeanroy, who were appointed to observe the effect produced by his bougies. To prevent any odium of empiricism, and to prove the truth of his assertions, he has published every formula of remedies used in the cure of these complaints *.

MR. BENJAMIN BELL.—This surgeon has written on the gonorrhœa and its consequent affections; he severely animadverts on the mischievous effects of caustic, affirms that it seldom or never answers the purpose for which it is applied, and observes, “This practice prevailed upwards of an hundred years ago, but, being both *hazardous and uncertain*, it appears soon to have been relinquished. It has lately, however, been revived, or rather an attempt has been made for reviving it, by the late Mr. Hunter, of London, and still more lately by Mr. Home. But as I consider the practice attended with danger, and not likely often to answer the purpose, I shall briefly state what leads me to form this opinion, &c.

“ The introduction of caustic into the urethra must prove hazardous from two circumstances; our not being able, even with all the pains we can take, to apply it to the *stricture alone*, without injuring the *contiguous part* of the urethra; and the risk there must always be of some small portion of the caustic breaking off and resting in the passage.

“ On these accounts it would appear, that, for the removal of strictures in the urethra, the application of caustic is either *unnecessary*, or in a very considerable degree *unsafe*, and at the same time of very uncertain effect. In other parts of the body, we all know how difficult it is to remove even the callous edges of an ulcer with caustic; nay, that *new parts* seem often to form below, before the eschar produced by a previous application of the caustic has come off. I have no hesitation, therefore, in saying, that in similar affections of the urethra, proceeding to the extent which we here suppose them to have done, caustic would be altogether inadequate for the purpose, or that it must be applied in such quantities as to be productive of *much hazard*.”

* For which his work in French, lately published, may be referred to.

ON THE METHODS OF TREATING THE RAVAGING EFFECTS
OF CAUSTICS APPLIED TO THE URETHRA.

NUMEROUS instances lately have proved, not only the inefficacy of caustics to remove obstructions of the urethra; but likewise many additional injuries to that canal, which did not exist before the caustic was applied, and which were the evident effects of escharotics. 1. Violent acute pains. 2. Inflammation of the urethra, prostate, and bladder. 3. Elevation of the destroyed part, eschar, or slough. 4. Hæmorrhage, or profuse bleedings. 5. Deposition of urine in the cells of the cellular structure of the perinæum, scrotum, or penis. 6. Abscess. 7. Ulcers often incurable. 8. Total suppression of urine from thickened membranes. 9. Mortification. 10. The most painful death.

DREADFUL PAINS THE IMMEDIATE EFFECTS OF THE CAUSTIC.

Insensible must that man be to human misery, who could think of applying escharotics to a part as exquisite in sensibility as the eye itself; in a part hid from human sight, and where no defensive plaster could be applied to limit the burning effects of the remedy. The first effect is torturing pain. This must be submitted to repeatedly, as long as the urethral causticator thinks it necessary to repeat his cruel application, which I have known to be used above two hundred times in the course of some months, to the injury of parts, without the desired effect. The destruction of the nervous expansion in the urethra has destroyed, in some instances, the exquisite sensibility of that canal, on which some artists have pretended that the urethra is not so sensible as supposed. How can it be sensible, when the cause of sensibility is destroyed?

ESCHAR, AND ITS SEPARATIONS.

Every person who comprehends the action of caustic on living human substances, must remember that the first effect is the destruction of the part, in certain degrees, on which it operates; the second is the elevation, loosening, and separation of the eschar. This always takes up a few days, and, in the urethra, very often obstructs the passage of urine. This the artists remove by passing a moderate sized bougie with some considerable force: *hæmorrhage* often follows this, forcing off the slough, and all these effects must be produced in succession, more or less, as often as the corroding caustic is repeated. A fainous discharge to a considerable degree is the consequence, and ulceration, more or less deep, in proportion

tion as the caustic has acted in a greater or less degree, which cannot *à priori* be ascertained by any causticator or human being whatever. An *ulcer*, then, produced by the caustic, superficial, deep, or extended, must be the first prospect of cure; a larger bougie then can be passed, and the urine issues more freely through, with smarting and pain. How can any reflecting person expect the ulcer produced by art, namely, by the destructive caustic, to be easier to heal, than the ulcer arising from abscess, excoriation, &c. about the verumontanum, prostate gland, neck of the bladder, &c.? From the passing of urine, every ulcer in the urethra is *difficult* of cure; which is well known to all experienced and candid practitioners. What charm may induce ulcers produced by a *caustic* to be less difficult of cure, than those which happen *without caustic*, would be very difficult for even the causticators to determine. Facts, however, declare the truth, which causticators conceal; for no art, however sublime, has yet been discovered to effectually cure these ulcers, the remains of rash escharotic applications, which frequently impede the urine, and render patients, through pain, more miserable than before the caustic was applied: many instances of which, with additional callosities in the urethra, in London, are striking examples, at this present moment.

HÆMORRHAGE, OR PROFUSE BLEEDING.

The profuse bleeding attending the application of the caustic has, in some instances, proved fatal, which many surgeons in this metropolis have been witnesses of: in other cases, nausea, extreme coldness and faintings, have been the consequence of profuse effusions of blood. When the bleeding has stopped, the urethra has been so filled with coagulated blood, that the urine has been *totally suppressed*, and with the greatest difficulty drawn off by a catheter; which operation, however carefully performed, has produced *fresh* hæmorrhage.

In which case the surgeon must proceed according to circumstances, carefully avoiding the caustic practice, that has produced such a dangerous disaster where no hæmorrhage pre-existed. Cold bathing the parts, tincture of roses and opiates, judiciously applied, are the best remedies, &c.

INFLAMMATION.

Great inflammation sometimes succeeds the caustic, by which the passage, formerly slightly obstructed, is almost obliterated by a thickening of the membranes lining the urethra. Warm bathing long repeated, bleeding, cooling cathartics and clysters, nitre and camphor, are expedient. There are instances on record, where rash surgeons have attempted with repeated caustics to burn a passage through the obliterated urethra; and this project, so replete with barbârity, as might be reasonably expected

by

by every judicious and reflecting man, after horrid torments, has killed the miserable patient.

If bougies, catgut or others, be applied in these cases, the greatest caution and skill are requisite; or if passing the catheter be attempted, great care should be observed, that very little or no force should be used, lest a new opening be made into the bladder, which I have known to happen, and it proved fatal. Oleaginous remedies, with nitre, peniluvium of emollients and opiates, mucilaginous refrigerant drinks, &c. &c. are to be administered.

DEPOSITIONS OF URINE OR FLUID IN THE CELLULAR STRUCTURE
OF THE PERINÆUM, SCROTUM, OR PENIS.

The *burning precarious* caustic, sometimes instead of acting only on what may be supposed the cause of stricture, forms a deeper eschar than the skilfullest artist intended. Urine, instead of passing through the urethral canal, forms depositions in the cellular structure of the above-recited parts, occasioning violent inflammations, enormous swellings and distensions, threatening mortification, and which in some instances terminate fatally by gangrene.

In such desperate affections, it is difficult to give written directions; for the diversity of cases requires dissimilar treatment, according to circumstances. The urine should be led, if possible, through the urethra by preserving a flexible catheter through the neck of the bladder, that the urine as it issues may not deposit that acrid irritating fluid in the cellular parts. Sometimes all efforts are fruitless; in which case the art must submit; but the patient miserably perishes.

ABSCESSES AND ULCERS.

Abscesses form in the passage in different parts near the verumontanum, prostate, neck of the bladder. A total suppression of urine is the consequence; which, notwithstanding the skilfullest treatment, proves fatal. Operations in this case are sometimes necessary, which should be submitted to the consideration of judicious surgeons. In desperate diseases desperate remedies are sometimes to be applied, after humanely apprizing the patient and friends of the pressing danger.

ULCERS.

Ulcers succeed the use of the caustic, incurable ulcers, where none before existed.

In these cases, the use of the methods already recommended may be sometimes, though not always, useful. Two cases shall here be produced, amongst many more that might be added; which may prove a

lesson of caution to the causticators, and perhaps may deter the afflicted from suffering such dangerous experiments on some of the most exquisitely sensible parts of the human body.

Cafe.

An officer had experienced frequent gonorrhœa; in some he suffered the use of astringent injections, by the advice of a celebrated though rash surgeon. A long time he felt no ill effects; but as he advanced in life, the urine in its passage was obstructed, with an evacuation of mucus. I recommended mucilaginous and oleous remedies; and occasionally, in case of temporary obstruction, to pass a bougie. The patient, pursuing his pleasures and free living, would not submit to any regular plan of cure. In this manner he proceeded some years without any great inconvenience. In the spring of 1799 I was again consulted, and on examining the urine, instead of mucus I perceived a greenish-coloured purulent pus, fetid in smell and disagreeable to the sight. This was accompanied every morning, on waking, with an obstruction of urine, which could not be removed without the introduction of a bougie.

On examining the case accurately, I discovered the ulcer was near the verumontanum. Through an ivory tube, the end of which came as near as possible to the part affected, was injected a small quantity of *lotio penetrans*, in order, if possible, to deterge the foul ulcer. A dry regimen was recommended, and innocent mucilaginous diet. Internally was taken *solutio antimonialis mercurialis* in decoction of farsaparilla; which greatly assists the cure of most evil ulcers. The patient continued the plan for three weeks; the pus amended in quality and diminished in quantity. The patient was much relieved. Wishing to expedite the cure, a grain more of the hydrarg. muriat. was added to eight ounces of the *solutio penetrans*, but this the urethra of the patient could not bear. *One grain to eight ounces* of water was all that could be admitted. This plan succeeded in rendering all the symptoms better; and the pus very much diminishing, so as to be very little in quantity, to three ounces of *oleum amygdalarum* was added one dram of *extractum saturni*, and conveyed to the part affected in the urethra. This answered well, and little appearance of ulcer remained; but still mucus issues with urine, which I have reason to conclude will continue through the remainder of the patient's life. Some time after this, I was informed by the attendant surgeon, that the patient had been persuaded to have *caustic bougies* applied, as a radical cure for his complaint; instead of which the ulcer was produced in the urethra, where no such disease was before. A friend of this gentleman's lost his life by the *caustic bougie* practice, which so alarmed the officer, that he

resisted all further persuasion to have it introduced; or he might have shared the fate of his more credulous friend.

Case where the Caustic was applied above one hundred Times.

A respectable tradesman, who had been treated by astringent injections above ten years since, soon after found a stricture in the urethra, which he occasionally removed by a common bougie; being too irritable to undergo a proper course. Lately this patient applied for my opinion again, when, on examining, I perceived the whole flap of the shirt stiffened like buckram, and covered with purulent pus and fancies. The evacuation of urine was greatly impeded, and on every expulsive effort, violent agonizing pains were experienced. The patient said he had been nearly *two years under a caustic bougie course*, that he had suffered the caustic bougie to be applied between one and two hundred times. Every time he experienced the most exquisite pain and misery, and at times *much blood* issued. In this manner he continued suffering torture, whilst the causticating artist confidently promised him a certain cure in the end. The reverse, after this repeated misery, pain, and treatment, was the consequence. Every day there is such a purulent and finous stinking discharge issuing from the ulcers, as to be horrid to behold. I requested my neighbour, Mr. Kerrison, formerly my pupil at the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary, to pass a bougie. He found three obstructions in the neighbourhood of the verumontanum, prostate, and neck of the bladder, which twisted the point of the bougie into a spiral form, something similar to a corkscrew. I declared the case to be incurable; but he might try medicated bougies with Daran's unguent, which Mr. Kerrison applied repeatedly. The misery of this unfortunate patient is beyond description horrid. There is little probability of relief, or even a palliation, during the remainder of his life, and indeed *death* under such distressing circumstances must be considered the greatest consolation. The shocking *tortures* this unfortunate feels is nearly sufficient to make him commit suicide as the most certain means of relief.

MORTIFICATION AND DREADFULLY PAINFUL DEATH.

Dissections *post mortem* prove, that where gangrenes have happened from the effects of caustics administered to the urethra, they are frequently different from the symptoms common to other mortifications. In other gangrenes a cessation of pain accompanies mortification; and though it may be the forerunner of death, yet pain diminishes in proportion as the gangrene advances in its road to fatality. This may be observed in mortification of the intestines and many other parts; where syncope, cold sweats

sweats without pain, are the concomitants ; the patient is frequently sensible to the last, and with a mind but a moment before perfectly correct, dies ! On the contrary, when a mortification, succeeding caustics applied to the urethra, commences and proceeds, the unfortunate patient is in violent agonies ; nothing but piercing cries, groans, and shocking lamentations are heard ; not only whilst the affected retain their senses, but apparently after all the mental powers are abolished. By the mournful and tristful tones, short breathings, and miserable gesticulations, every reflecting spectator of the tragic scene must be struck with conviction of the internal and distracting sensations ; and this often continues until the last breath, before the wretched patient expires.

These are a few of the deleterious consequences of caustics. The abolition of the sublimest pleasure which man enjoys by the act of coition, and the incapability of procreating the human species, from impotence in the ejaculation of semen, are trifles light as air in comparison to the torments already described.

REASONING ON THE INJURY DONE TO THE FUNCTIONS OF THE
GENITAL PARTS, BY INJECTIONS, CAUSTICS, &c.

The experience of the most learned physicians and celebrated surgeons in Europe has been produced, in direct opposition to many prevailing prejudices. Facts are innumerable ; but it may be necessary, in additional confirmation of the importance of a speedy change of practice, to reason professionally, from the anatomical structure of the parts, physiology, pathology, and therapeutics, on the objectionable doctrines, that have been productive of the various disasters already enumerated.

The semen masculinum, or male seed, is first formed in the **TESTICULES**, then reposed in the **VESICULÆ SEMINALES** or seminal vesicles, afterwards powerfully emitted with a projectile force, from the canal of the penis or yard, into the uterus or womb ; where it renders the female ovum prolific *.

The testicles may in vain secrete or form seed if any impediment prevent its free egress through the ducts or canals of the seminal vesicles, placed in the *urethra*. The astringent injections, or destructive caustics, frequently injure or destroy the action of the seminal vesicles ; hence an incurable impotence, by prevention of the semen passing from the vesicles into the urethra.

* Those who would comprehend these and other functions, the structure and uses of all parts concerned, may consult the sixty-fifth copper-plate engraving in my *Schola Medicinæ Universalis Nova*, in Latin, or in the English translation of that work ; where every part of the male and female parts of generation is delineated.

The ERECTION of the penis must be complete. The EJACULATION OF SEMEN should be vigorously performed, and depends on many circumstances †.

The exquisite pleasures of love and the procreation of the human species must ever be considered of the utmost importance to human

† Some of the necessary powers of erection and projectile force with which the semen should be ejaculated, are contained in the following quotation from the great and immortal Haller, page 184, paragraph DCCCXL. &c.

“ A long-continued and violent erection is at last joined commonly with an expulsion of the semen; and this requires much greater force than is requisite for the erection only. For the semen follows at that time when the irritation of the nerves is arrived at its greatest height: and in natural venery indeed, when at length the cellular spaces of the urethra and its continuous glands, which are at last filled, become so far distended with a large quantity of warm blood, that the nervous papillæ, stretched out in the latter, become violently affected from the irritating or pleasing cause; the seminal vesicles are emptied by the levator muscles of the anus, which press them against the resisting bladder with a convulsive motion, excited either by a voluptuous imagination, or from the pruritus that is exquisite in the nerves of the glans, principally in its lower part, which is in the neighbourhood of the frenum. Hence the semen is never discharged with any of the urine, in an healthy man; because the expulsion of it requires the bladder to be closed or drawn up firmly together; for, while lax, it affords little or no resistance to the seminal vesicles. The transverse muscles seem to dilate the canal of the urethra for the reception of the semen expressed from the vesicles.

“ Soon afterwards the powers constringing the urethra are, from the irritation of the very sensible fabric of that canal, put into action. To this constriction conduces principally the accelerator, which makes a powerful concussion of the bulb and adjacent part of the urethra, so as to propel the contents more swiftly, in proportion as the bulb has a larger diameter than that of the urethra. But that this may act firmly, the sphincter of the anus, together with that of the bladder, must be well shut. The accelerator muscle seems also principally concerned in the erection, by compressing the veins of the corpus cavernosum of the urethra. At the same time the *erectores penis*, as they are called, arising from the tubercles of the ischium, become strong, and are inserted into the cavernous bodies, sustaining the penis as a sort of medium betwixt the transverse and perpendicular direction. Thus the semen is drove into the vagina, and into the uterus itself, in a prolific coition: the whole action of which is very impetuous, and comes near to a convulsion; whence it wonderfully weakens the habit, and greatly injures the whole nervous system, as the maladies arising from thence seem to indicate, in consequence of the affection of the nerves, without which the semen cannot be expelled.”

society. All the diseases of the urethra enumerated consequent to astringent injections and caustic bougies, beside the misery produced, not only impede the *act* of coition and the free discharge of *semen*, but render the express order of the Divine Being abortive, which is, INCREASE AND MULTIPLY. The injectors and causticators effectually oppose this divine ordinance:

Neither the complete ERECTION of the penis nor the ejaculation of semen can be performed with vigour or perfection; if strictures, excrencences, callosities, or ulcers, from astringent injections, or the effects of burning caustics, prevent the direct erection of the penis, or the free projectile force, and strong ejection of the seed in the act of coition. The penis will, in many of those diseases, be CURVED instead of straight; hence other actual causes of impotence, and an impossibility of procreating the human species.

The semen, in such complaints, if it pass from the seed vesicles, DRIBBLES through the urethra, accompanied sometimes with purulent matter, or is very faintly ejected, so as not to be perceived by the female, to the great disappointment of the pleasures of love to both parties. Amorous efforts are attempted, but without fruition.

If the NECK of the BLADDER, *prostate*, *verumontanum*, or any other parts of the urethra, be swelled, or the membranes even thickened, or contracted, so as to obstruct the *free spouting* of seed in its passage, diminishing the natural, healthful, and powerful force, or the muscles erecting the penis, or concerned in the ejaculation of semen, be diminished in their action by tumours, &c. procreation is destroyed. Behold some of the principal causes of impotence! Behold the destructive effects of astringents and caustics, which, besides all other painful and dangerous evils, destroy the powers of generating our species!

THE RUNNING OF A CLAP, AND THE DISCHARGE FROM THE NOSE
IN A COLD, QUITE DIFFERENT.

Another subterfuge of the defenders of astringent injections is, the specious assertion, that the INFECTIOUS VENEREAL EFFLUX from the URETHRA is similar to a CATARRH, CORYZA, or what is vulgarly called a common COLD.

How any strange conceit should enter into an hypothetical brain is not wonderful; but how any sedate sober-minded practitioner in the learned profession of physic, or surgery, should countenance such a deception, is truly astonishing!

The dissimilarity of the causes and effects of the discharge of a common cold and a clap is so striking, that the slightest glance of the eye must discover

discover it; therefore it requires very little reflection or examination to ascertain the absolute difference.

Is the discharge from catarrh, cold, &c. infectious? Will it communicate the same disorder, a cold, by contact to any other person? Do people with colds, give colds to their wives or neighbours? Is there no difference between the inflammation and efflux from the mucal urethral glands arising from venereal poison, and that innocent excretion arising in the pituitary membrane of the nose, from sudden cold, &c.? Where is the similarity of these two widely different fluids? Does not the checked running in a clap produce swelled testicles, and are not the various parts of the body often contaminated by the absorption of venereal infection? Do not, at times, all the various symptoms of the confirmed *lues venerea* originate from urethral and chancrous venereal infection? Where then is the analogy between the running of a clap and the sneezing and running of the nose from a cold? Is it not a sophistical argument held out to deceive the unwary? Does the catarrh or cold produce obstructions in the urinary passages, pocky eruptions, topes, nodes, nocturnal excruciating pains, venereal ulcers in the throat or palate, the loss of the nose, rotten bones, and all the other venereal infectious evils recited in the foregoing part of the treatise?

To give a greater latitude to fair reasoning, it would not be difficult to prove, that few local disorders ever exist in the human body. Are there any real diseases, that do not excite ungrateful sensations in the body? The part, therefore, where the disorder may be fixed, must include nervous sensibility, sympathy, and nervous intelligence to the brain, or common sensorium. If the nervous system be irritated by pain, inflammation, heat of urine, venereal strangury, or any other cause, a disorder of a part cannot alone exist, when other parts composing the human body are sensibly affected. There are, therefore, very few disorders that can be called LOCAL, for there are very few which do not occasion ungrateful sensations in the nerves, fever, and mental disquietude, &c.

IF DISEASES BE SIMILAR IN LOCALITY AND CAUSES, THEY SHOULD BE CURED IN THE SAME MODE.

As the injectors insinuate, that the common affection of a cold irritating the mucal glands of the nose, bronchia, &c. and causing an increase of mucal discharge, is so similar to a virulent infectious efflux from the urethra; why do they use astringents? If any practitioner injected the nose with solutions of vitriol, or gave styptics in a catarrh, he would be thought mad; for he might injure the afflicted. Do not the injectors use those very compositions? As the object of checking a discharge from the mucal glands in the urethra in venereal cases is so much insisted on; if

there

there were any similarity in the catarrh, it must be equally necessary in that common cold. "LOCAL diseases," say these sages, "ONLY REQUIRE LOCAL REMEDIES; and the clap is as innocent as an efflux of a cold from the nose or throat, and perfectly similar." The *innocence* of urethral venereal infection has been fully proved to be frequently terribly noctious, and destructive in consequences, from the poisonous infection; it remains for the injectors to prove the same of catarrh before they confirm any similitude in such opposite diseases.

WHETHER LOCAL DISEASES ONLY REQUIRE TOPICAL OR LOCAL REMEDIES.

In the therapeutic part, false principles are received as true. It is said in defence of astringent injections, caustic bougies, or caustics applied to chancres, that **LOCAL DISEASES ONLY REQUIRE LOCAL REMEDIES**.

The inflammation of the conjunctive membrane of the eye is strictly a local disease, evident to the sight, and not hidden like the venereal *infectious* inflammation of the urethra called clap. Three species, amongst many others, may be mentioned: the most violent, called chemosis, the venereal, and the intermittent. Will local applications cure these diseases? Are not the most powerful evacuations of bleeding, cupping, saline cathartics, and antiphlogistics, abstinence, &c. absolutely necessary in the first? Will any remedies but mercurial antivenereals cure the second? Can the third be removed without bark, vitriolic acid, with preparations of zinc, &c.? Whoever attempted their cure without internal proper remedies, as well as appropriate external fomentations, &c. would be stigmatized as ignorant, and must be the cause of blindness in proportion to the extension of practice *.

Inflammations of various other parts, contusions, different species of ulcers, although strictly **LOCAL**, frequently require the most efficacious internal remedies, according to various causes. The proposition, therefore, of **LOCAL DISEASES ONLY REQUIRING LOCAL REMEDIES**, is inadmissible in practice, however plausible it may appear in whimsical and false hypothesis.

Besides, the injectors and causticators of chancres contradict their own hypothesis by their practice. Venereal ulcers in the throat, palate, nose, tophs, or nodes on the bones, &c. the common effects of caustics

* See the treatment of these diseases in the third volume of my *Rational Practice of Physic*, and in the most approved, experienced, and learned authors. External applications, used to these affections, have blinded thousands, particularly poultices; which have caused suppurations and the bursting of the eye, or incurable opacities of the cornea, &c. See likewise my *Treatise on the Cure of ulcerated Legs without Rest*, by removing Causes from the *Constitution*, &c. &c.

applied to chancres, astringent injections, or leaving the clap to cure itself, appear many years after their supposed cure by injection, &c. These are all as local as the gonorrhœa virulenta, as it is called, and arise from the same *poison*, namely, venereal infection; yet both injectors and causticators, deserting their favourite principle of **LOCAL DISEASES ONLY REQUIRING LOCAL REMEDIES**, apply universals, rub in mercurial ointment unmercifully, raise vehement salivations, &c. to correct and cure the baneful effects of their former blundering errors *.

'Let not the profession, therefore, nor mankind, be any longer deceived by such futile assertions, which in their consequences have produced such a multiplicity of mischief. The followers of such unfounded doctrines cannot too soon relinquish the horrid practice of *injecting* and *stopping* venereal running, on such *fallacious* grounds; by this they will infallibly prevent the necessity of *cautic*, or any other *bougies*.

There will be a plentiful harvest of urethral strictures so long as astringent injections, either through the impatience of the infected, or the errors of the prejudiced, exist. The caustic bougie has, and will have, ample scope for that deleterious practice. Fresh dupes will arrive daily, and fresh misfortunes will accompany their unsuspecting credulity, as long as caustics to the urethra are applied. **THE DEAD TELL NO TALES.** Those who survive the tormenting practice, and live in inexpressible misery from the effects of caustics, &c. conceal their infirmities as much as possible, both before and after the wretched attempts to obtain a radical cure. Disappointed in their sanguine expectations, they apply to any practitioner sooner than an astringent injector, or urethral causticator; and, whilst these rash operators are boasting of successful cures, *many other* of the faculty know that the reverse is the truth, and could, if they pleased, expose the dreadful sufferings, and often **FATAL CATASTROPHE** of the afflicted. A delicacy of sentiment, a regard for the honour of the art, and the characters of the *erroneous*, should ever prevent personalities. To attack prejudices, but spare persons, is the most honourable mode of procedure. It is hoped the multiplicity of proofs, in town and country, of dreadful injuries, imperfect cures, or fatal effects from caustics, so well known to numerous practitioners, will prove a bar to future mischief; especially as mild successful methods of cure are communicated, in which there is neither **RISK, DANGER, nor apprehension of FATALITY.** **IT IS NOBLE IN THE ART OF MEDICINE NOT TO SHRINK FROM DIFFICULTIES; BUT IT IS IRRATIONAL TO ATTEMPT IMPOSSIBILITIES.**

* Violent inflammation of the prostate, testicles, &c. produces fever, requiring bleeding, &c. The great Sharp recommends free bleeding, &c. as in the pleurisy, &c. &c. and his methods are successful.

IT is reported, that a nest of irritated hornets will surround and torture the author to death, for daring to produce these important truths. It should be remembered, that not any one practitioner, but a numerous host of the most learned men in Europe, for above two centuries, have condemned astringent injections. To be wounded in such respectable and learned company would be the highest honour. Behold the formidable veteran army of true science against chimerical notions and palpable absurdities.

AUTHORS WHO HAVE SEVERELY REPROBATED ASTRINGENT INJECTIONS, AND WHOSE SENTIMENTS ARE QUOTED IN THE PRECEDING PART OF THE WORK.

1. Fernelius,	21. Lieuteaud,
2. Julius Cæsar Benedictus,	22. Brooks,
3. Jonstonus,	23. Juberthou,
4. Sydenham,	24. Dibon,
5. Wiseman,	25. Dionis,
6. Riverius,	26. Winslow,
7. Nenter,	27. Home,
8. Pitcairn,	28. Storck,
9. Freind,	29. Stoll,
10. Shaw,	30. Marherr,
11. Hoffman,	31. Plenck,
12. Robinson,	32. De Meza,
13. Heister,	33. Callisen,
14. Astruc,	34. Colombier,
15. Col de Vilars,	35. Cullen,
16. Daran,	36. Swediaur,
17. Van Swieten,	37. Pott,
18. Ludwig,	38. Howard,
19. Rowley *,	39. Mr. Everard Home,
20. Vogel,	40. Numerous cotemporaries.

* It may appear extraordinary to see the name of the present author in the list; but a work was published on the subject thirty years ago. It was not republished in the Rational Practice of Physic, as I never intended to interfere in surgery, had not the present causes rendered it highly necessary, for the salvation of society, and to serve the cause of humanity. The whole has been written in those momentary opportunities that could be spared from the continual hurry of an extensive medical town practice.

Dare any practitioner, however elevated in his own esteem, assert, that his private voice should be attended to against such an assemblage of all the learning in Europe? Will any one be sufficiently bold to defend the astringent injectors in open violation of thousands of indubitable and sorrowful facts? Are there any physicians and surgeons in Europe, who would countenance the stigmatized doctrines, in direct opposition to truth? If there be any such men existing, they ill deserve the name of physicians; they should be nominated tormentors. Contracted practice may be silent; but it is a great advantage in this grand commercial metropolis, where venereal cases are so common, that any novelty is soon ascertained, as to its utility or mischief.

THE THREATENED ATTACK OF THE CAUSTICATORS.

The causticators in Great Britain, some say, are numerous; they too, fired with wrath, will take the field, caustics in hand, to burn and consume every exposer of their favourite practice. The conflict cannot be with any individual; but with a considerable force of many distinguished surgeons. It must be the battle of rash project against the united voice of sound reason and long experience. Many, however, have deserted the caustic cause, full of remorse and contrition, for the mischiefs they have occasioned by their credulity in impossibilities. They now with affliction say, that reflection comes too late*. There is another body of practitioners, few in number it is hoped, who protest, with a pertinacious proud obstinacy, they will not desist until they have fired the urethras of several more. It is seriously recommended to these to view SAVIARD's cases. Let them read the lamentable descriptions of the authors produced in the present work. Let them industriously ascertain many recent facts in this metropolis, the horrid effects of their temerity. Let them be convinced that the unfeeling project is not a new contrivance; but one that has always failed and produced mischief in the hands of different impostors and adventurers for nearly two centuries.

* If the censured practices continue, neither mankind, from their wilful credulity, nor the uninformed of the profession, merit the solicitude of the science, humanity, and integrity of those honourable characters, who have so freely reprobated astringent injections, caustic bougies, &c. Even the partial use of astringents is very dubious,

Let them see, coolly and candidly, the reiterated observations of FERRIUS, SAVIARD, ASTRUC, DE LA FAYE, SAMUEL SHARP, LE DRAN, DARAN, and all those eminent surgeons who were most capable of giving important information, advice, and warning to the inexperienced and uninformed. If they continue the shocking practice, after these public testimonies of disapprobation of so many skilful practitioners, they must be considered, in the highest degree, incorrigible. Behold the names of many men, elevated by real merit and skill to the highest rank in the profession ! They appear not like the unlettered, who boast they never study books, and are too conceited to be taught what they do not know ; but many excellent practisers, who sagaciously availed themselves of the bold attempts, fortunate or ill success of their ancestors, and have accordingly regulated their conduct, in most cases, by the laws of humanity, and the rules of enlightened science.

1. Ambrose Paré,	10. Palfyn,
2. Alphonsus Ferrius,	11. De la Faye,
3. Forestus,	12. Daran,
4. Scultetus,	13. Sharp,
5. Wiseman,	14. Heister,
6. Saviard,	15. Le Dran,
7. Verdun,	16. Jesse Foot,
8. Astruc,	17. Bell,
9. Col de Vilars,	18. Teytaud*.

REASONINGS OF THE CAUSTICATORS PROVED ERRONEOUS.

Some of the causticators, when pressed on the fatality of their cruel project, caustic mania, or mad rage of the day, acknowledge lives have been *lost*, in some instances ; but in justification,

* There are two or three quoted as having used caustic remedies, particularly *auripigmentum*. The excellent surgeon of l'Hotel Dieu of Paris, *Default*, whose lectures have been lately published in French, and who attended the late unfortunate *Dauphin* of France, in his last unhappy moments, says, concerning caustics, " Il y en a comme l'arsenic, dont la causticité est si active, qu'on doit être très-circonspect dans l'usage qu'on en fait." It does not appear, that the causticators ever examine the state of patients two or three years after a supposed cure; if they did, they would immediately relinquish the practice. Many instances of the dreadful effects have come, and are daily coming, under my own observation. The augmented misery would be shocking to relate.

they ask, what chirurgical operations can be performed without danger? thus endeavouring to confound strictures of the urethra with the capital operations of amputation in cases of gangrene, or gun-shot wounds in the joints, &c. ; cutting for the stone ; or trepanning for fractures of the cranium, &c. Thus, they satisfy weak minds of the absolute necessity of caustics being applied to the urethra, to remove the consequences of astringent injections, omissions of mercury, &c. &c.* Such superficial reasoning must make logic laugh! If causes of diseases, situations, similarity of functions, and contiguous sensibility of parts and danger, be not analogous; all conclusions from such remote and dissimilar principles must be sophistical and fallacious. Such arguments are as distant from the main point, as east from west. Are patients, who have suffered strictures many years with more or less inconvenience, to be considered in a state analogous to those who are suffering under rapidly spreading mortifications, gun-shot wounds of the joints, fractures of the cranium, &c. where hazardous, very dangerous operations, which often prove fatal, are immediately necessary, as the only probable means of saving life? Will patients, afflicted with long-continued urethral obstructions, die in a few hours or in a day or two, if caustics be not applied †? Are those fiery burning weapons the only miserable resources, in the present cultivated science of surgery, capable of affording relief? No. Milder methods have universally succeeded; whilst caustics have produced what every skilful surgeon should religiously avoid being the cause of, namely, intolerable pains, hæmorrhage,

* Though *Bilguer*, first surgeon of the armies of Frederic the Great, king of Prussia, has, in numerous instances, proved the contrary in regard to gun-shot wounds, for he never amputated, where it was a rule of art, and yet often succeeded. If the same practice had been followed in the West Indies, all his patients would have died of locked jaws. In the war before last, we never waited, in hot climates, for a separation; the safest mode was to amputate early. In Mr. *Blizard*'s ingenious Treatise on Gun-shot Wounds this is not recommended. I communicated this doctrine in the chapter on gun-shot wounds, in *Medical Advice to the Army and Navy*, presented to his Majesty in 1776, during the American war.

† Some cavillers and defenders ask, Suppose the urethra be obliterated, would not caustic be proper there? No: it has been tried, and proved fatal. The art is not obliged to attempt impossibilities in desperate cases. The art likewise has better methods, which every skilful surgeon knows. Besides, the total obliteration is a very rare case.

inflammation, cold shiverings, abscesses, callosities, incurable ulcers, mortification, and an agonizing death !

The astringent injectors inconsiderately pave the way and prepare inhuman work for the causticators ; but it is remarkable, the causticators declare they *never* use injections, it is sufficient for them to remove the effects. *Quid est hoc ? Quare haec subita mutatio ?* They embark in the same bottom, and must sink or swim together. The causticators, not perhaps knowing, or forgetting that admirable rule in skilful surgery, **CUNCTA PRIUS TENTANDA**, fly to their torturing remedy with eager precipitation, and stride in violent haste to burn a temporary passage through the urethra* ; without trying those lenient methods that have succeeded with **DARAN**, **SHARP**, and many of the most excellent surgeons. Were these great and experienced men living, they would be filled with horror ; their souls would freeze at the barbarity of the times, and rashness of the present coarse and random applications. By the unfeeling violence of the causticators, they have produced, in some instances, the frightful operation of laying open, or cutting away, the **CORPUS SPONGIOSUM PENIS**. The penis itself, in other instances, has been cut off, **AMPUTATED** !! The causticators, therefore, instead of securely sheltering themselves and defending their practice on the plausible plea of other operations being dangerous, and laying stress on that circumstance as a vindication of their rashness, and the fatality of the favourite practice, only expose the nakedness of the land in the fair fields of reason. Such sophisters appear to have a very high notion of their own sublime faculties, and a very contemptuous opinion of the mental powers of others ; to suppose

* It has proved in many instances *temporary*, to my own knowledge, and that of many other practitioners. If the ulcer produced by the caustic be curable, a contracted cicatrix remains, and in time the original symptoms of obstruction reappear.

|| Can any thing be more dreadful to mankind than the loss of those important parts, on which population depends ? Women scarcely ever know the accursed symptoms of urethral strictures. They are never or rarely cured by any astringent injected through the meatus urinarius. The lower class until lately escaped ; gentlemen of rank and fortune are most the victims to the mal-practices. A military surgeon of great experience exclaimed the other day, in confirmation of my observations, “ Most of the military have ruined urethras ! ”

Such a flimsy superficial sophism could have any weight amongst the erudite in the profession of physic, a profession in which, amongst many members, the most extensive and universal learning exists. The first part of the sentence, CUNCTA PRIUS TENTANDA, has been totally disregarded, as if no such humane and excellent maxim belonged to the most useful art of surgery; for they attempt nothing, when they should attempt every thing safely practicable. SED IMMEDICABILE VULNUS ENSE RECIDENDUM, NE PARS SINCERA TRAHATUR, has been the professional plea for amputation, &c. The causticators, instead of observing this wise precept, this precept of necessity; by their active fires, force SINCERE and HEALTHFUL PARTS into a state of dreadful disease; then ENSE RECIDENDUM is put into execution, sometimes by the loss of the penis, or scrotum, &c. if not of life *.

The cause then of such a premature death originates in the violence of the caustic application, and the precipitancy of the surgeon, who would not attend to CUNCTA PRIUS TENTANDA.

THE INJECTORS AND CAUSTICATORS HAVE MUCH TO PROVE
TO SUPPORT THEIR DOCTRINES.

If any causticating surgeons should take the field in defence of astringent injections and the escharotic cause, publish their names, and declare their intentions of determined perseverance in that abominable treatment, it would be a generous act; for then mankind would be apprized of what they have to suffer, and the whole world would know to whom they are obliged for all the various evils recited; to whom they owe all the misfortunes, that diminish the honour of the art, and which make all humanity shudder! If they undertake the defence of the practice, they must prove, indirect contradiction to the learned authors quoted, that astringent injections, notwithstanding the daily evils they produce, and for which reason the causticators have deserted the practice *in toto*, are harmless and salutary: that although thousands have been

* When the neck of the bladder, or bladder itself, mortifies by the horrid practice, which has happened, *ense recidendum* is as impossible as cutting out the stomach, womb, or ureters, heart, &c. It cannot be performed without instantaneous death following. So that when a mortification of any part of the bladder, or its neck, happens, there is not the consolation of cutting away the diseased parts, *ne pars sincera trahatur*.

poxed from the exclusion of mercury in recent venereal infection; yet it is an excellent practice to omit that only specific †: that strictures in the urethra are as frequently subsequent to every other practice as from injection, although all dispassionate observers, and all who do not inject, prove directly the opposite fact: that the best way of curing a clap is to produce a compleat pox *: that powerful salivations are necessary, although much mischief follows the rough practice, and although milder methods prove a permanent cure, in millions of instances: that caustics to chancres and urethral strictures, are excellent remedies; although the first often produce buboes, phymosis, paraphymosis, dangerous ulcers, &c. or confirmed poxes, many years after a supposed cure; the latter, the evils related, the loss of the whole penis in some instances, through the jagged remains of which a new passage has been burned: that suppurative bougies, which have unquestionably cured so many thousands, with ease, security, and permanency, are quite inferior to the uncertain dilatation project, or to the burning caustic, that has rendered so many miserable, or proved so terribly destructive. When these and many more such impossibilities are irrefutably proved; then may the injectors and causticators triumph! then may the enterprising followers of the caustic banners continue unmolested, and march, armed with the fiery weapons, to repeat their terrible violations of reason, experience, and humanity!

The CORPS DE RESERVE shall lastly be brought forth in defence of the mild suppurating mode of treating urethral obstruc-

† It has been insinuated by some surgeons of no small eminence, that there is supposed to be a little *charlatanerie* in the caustic business; and while that frightful practice is held out as *primum mobile*, in many cases, no caustic is applied; but the common methods are used, by which other surgeons prove successful. In this I do not speak from my own knowledge, but merely from the assertions of others; who likewise affirm, that many cases have been treated as bougie cases, where no obstructions, or very little, existed. It is hoped, for the honour of humanity, these assertions are exaggerated, and unfounded.

* One Dr. *Misaubin*, a *charlatan*, who caught the ear of the *great* by injections, first poxed his patients, and then gave mercury to cure the effects of his own handy work. I consider Hogarth's *Doctor in Marriage-à-la-Mode*, with carious bones of the skull, &c. as a severe ridicule of the injecting and poxing practice of that day.

tions,

tions, recommended, and so generously communicated, by my late worthy and esteemed friend M. DARAN. Here physicians and surgeons of the first character, learned professors, all unite in praises of the success attending the skilful treatment for a period of above fifty years *.

Liste Alphabetique de Médecins qui ont attesté l'Efficacité de la Méthode de M. Daran.

MESSIEURS

ALEIN, — — —	{ Docteur agrégé au Collège des Médecins à Marseille.
BALIEU (DE), — —	{ Conseiller du Roi, & l'un de ses Médecins ordinaires.
BERTRAND, — —	Doyen du Collège des Médecins de Marseille.
BOUILHAC, — —	Premier Médecin de Monseigneur le Dauphin & de Madame la Dauphine.
BOUNIOLS, — —	Docteur de l'Université de Montpellier, Médecin du Roi à Fontainebleau, ci-devant Médecin ordinaire de S. A. R. Madame la Duchesse de Lorraine.
BOYER, — — —	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris, Censeur Royal, & Médecin ordinaire du Roi.
BRUHIER, — —	Censeur Royal, & l'un des Auteurs du Journal des Savans.
CANTWEL, — —	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris.
CASAMAJOR, — —	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris.
CHICOYNEAU, —	Conseiller d'Etat ordinaire, & premier Médecin du Roi.
COMEALUSIER, —	Docteur de l'Université de Montpellier, de la Faculté Royale des Sciences de la même ville, & ancien Professeur de la Faculté de Valence.
FALCONET, — —	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris, Médecin-Consultant du Roi, de l'Academie Royale des Inscriptions & Belles-Lettres.
FERREIN, — —	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris, Conseiller du Roi & Professeur Royal de Médecin au Collège Royal, de l'Academie Royale des Sciences.

* M. Daran was surgeon to the French army, counsellor of state, &c. &c. and much respected by the faculty composing the Royal Academy of Surgery at Paris, to which learned body he introduced me near thirty years ago, and particularly to M. Sabatier, Moreau, Louis, &c. &c. M. Daran was intimate with my late worthy friend George Whatley, Esq. treasurer to our Foundling Hospital, whose whole life was spent in the most generous acts of humanity and benevolence: he had served Daran at Marseilles, 1744, and it was ever gratefully acknowledged. I have some of the original bougies, made at that period.

JOYEUSE,

JOYEUSE, — —	Médecin ordinaire des Galeres.
JUSSIEU (DE), — —	{ Ecuyer, Conseiller, Secrétaire du Roi, Maifon & Couronne de France, & de ses Finances, Docteur de Montpellier & de Paris, Professeur en Botanique au Jardin Royal des Plantes, de l'Académie Royale des Sciences, & Membre de Sociétés Royales de Londres & de Berlin.
HOC (LE), — —	{ Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris, ancien Médecin ordinaire du Chatelet, & ordinaire de l'Hôtel-Dieu, & de l'Hôpital Royal de la Charité de Paris.
MEDALON, — —	{ Conseiller de la Médecine du Roi, & de sa Compagnie des Cent-Suisses, ancien Médecin des Camps & Armées du Roi.
MICHEL, — —	{ Docteur de la Faculté de Montpellier, agrégé au Collège des Médecins de Marseille, & Médecin du Lazaret de Purge.
MOLIN, — —	{ Docteur de la Faculté de Montpellier, & Médecin-Consultant du Roi.
MOREAU, — —	Conseiller du Roi, & son Médecin ordinaire.
MOURET, — —	Médecin de l'Hôpital de Tarascon.
NIHELL.	
PLUNKETT.	
POUSSE, PERE, —	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris.
POUSSE, FILS, —	{ Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris, ancien Professeur de Chirurgie, & Censeur Royal.
PROCOPE COUTEAUX,	{ Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris, ancien Professeur des Ecoles, & actuellement Professeur de Chirurgie en Langue Françoise.
RABOURS (DE), —	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris.
SIDOBRE, — —	{ Docteur de la Faculté de Montpellier, & Médecin-Consultant du Roi.
THIEULLIER (LE), —	{ Docteur - Régent de la Faculté de Paris, Conseiller Médecin ordinaire du Roi en son Grand Conseil, & en la Prévôte de France.
VERNAGE, — —	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris.

Liste Alphabétique des CHIRURGIENS.

MESSIEURS

BAGIEU, — —	{ Chirurgien de Saint Côme, & Chirurgien-Major des Gendarmes de la Garde du Roi.
BENOMONT, — —	Chirurgien Juré de Paris.
BERGEROT, — —	Maître Chirurgien Juré de S. Côme.
BIAG (DE), — —	Maître Chirurgien Juré de Saint Côme.
BOISCAILLAUD, —	{ Maître Chirurgien de S. Côme, Chirurgien ordinaire du Roi par quartier, & son premier Chirurgien ordinaire en survivance.

BOUDOU,	— — —	Chirurgien de S. Côme, & Chirurgien en chef de l'Hôtel-Dieu de Paris.
BOYER,	— — —	Ci-devant Chirurgien - Major des Grenadiers à Cheval de Sa Majesté Catholique.
CASAUBON,	— — —	Chirurgien Juré de S. Côme.
CASSAING,	— — —	Chirurgien Juré à Paris, & Chirurgien du Roi, & ordinaire en sa grande Artillerie.
CASTAIGNET,	— — —	Maître Chirurgien de Paris.
DALBON,	— — —	Maître en Chirurgie, Conseiller du Roi, Inspecteur des Boissons, ancien Chirurgien de S. M. en son Artillerie.
DARIUS,	— — —	Maître en Chirurgie, Membre de l'Académie Royale de Chirurgie.
DAVIEL,	— — —	Maître-ès-Arts, Chirurgien Juré de Marseille, entretenu sur les Galères du Roi, de l'Académie Royale des Sciences de Toulouse, Associé correspondant de celle de Chirurgie de Paris, Membre de l'Institut des Sciences de Bologne, Professeur & Démonstrateur Royal de Chirurgie à Marseille.
DESPORT,	— — —	Chirurgien de la Reine, & Chirurgien-Major des Camps & Armées du Roi.
DULATTIER,	— — —	Ancien Chirurgien-Major des Armées du Roi, & Aide-Major de la Charité de Paris.
DUPONY,	— — —	Maître Chirurgien de Saint Côme.
FAGET,	— — —	Maître Chirurgien de S. Côme, & de la Reine.
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APPROBATION.

J'ai lu par ordre de Monseigneur le Garde des Sceaux les *Observations Chirurgicales sur les Maladies de l'Urethre traitées suivant une nouvelle Méthode, par M. Daran, cinquième Edition.* Cet Ouvrage, déjà fort connu, mérite d'être imprimé par les bonnes Observations qu'il contient. A Paris, ce 14 Juin 1779.

SUE, Censeur Royal.

De plus, j'ai lu par ordre de Monseigneur le Garde des Sceaux, un Manuscrit portant pour titre : *Composition des Remedes employés par M. Daran dans les Maladies de l'Urethre.* Nous pensons que le Public recevra avec plaisir & reconnaissance pour l'Auteur un Remede si utile à l'humanité. A Paris, ce 21 Juillet 1779.

SUE.

RECAPITULATION OF THE WORK.

THE origin, progress, improvements, and treatment of every species of venereal infection have been discussed, as far as this performance admitted. Animadversions on destructive principles and practice, new or old revived chimerical projects, have been profusely introduced. Antivenereal remedies, whether openly avowed and regular, or secret and irregular, have been examined and criticised. The reasons for never treating any venereal infection without mercury, and the necessity of banishing powerful salivations, are submitted to the consideration of the learned and experienced in the medical profession: they are founded in reiterated observation, and admitted by the most able practitioners in Europe. The merits of mild successful practices and the additional force of mineral alteratives in complex venereal cases, according to circumstances, constitutions, seasons, and climates, are energetically inculcated. Many original and appropriate prescriptions have been communicated, for the different purposes of practice in the variety of circumstances that occur. The superior utility of fumigations and of many methods of treatment has been defended, which fleeting whimsical hypothesis, or which inexperience or presumption, had rashly decried, without any practical knowledge of their importance. Astringent injections have been demonstrably proved the principal cause of urethral obstructions and stricture. Mild methods of treating such cases, with safety and success, have been ardently recommended and fully authenticated. Caustic bougies, applied to the urethra under pretence of removing strictures, have been shown not only inadequate to their intentions, but often dreadfully destructive in their consequences. When radical cures have been confidently promised by the causticators, and credited with the warmest hopes and expectations by the deluded patients, additional misery, permanent sufferings, or a dreadful death, have been too often the consequences of the tormenting delusion. The methods of alleviating the horrid miseries, which caustics produce when applied to the exquisitely sensible urethra, are lastly introduced, and many causes of impotence from urethral complaints explained. The whole work is interspersed with sentiments and reflections on many defects of the art, and what appeared the most effectual means

means of their removal, by a learned and practical education, such as Boerhaave, Hoffman, Heister, and other distinguished physicians and surgeons have possessed and inculcated*. These doctrines are chiefly intended for the serious perusal and contemplation of students; and the inexperienced, and all, who have been deluded by those and other late chimerical fallacies, which have urged the necessity of the present animadversions.

CONCLUSION, &c.

Having now discharged a duty to the profession, and to the public, from whom, through a long life, so much confidence and protection have been experienced, a short pause may be requisite.—An apology may be thought expedient.—An apology should be offered for the free censures advanced; the frequent repetitions of which, to some readers, may prove disgusting. To the learned and well-informed many parts may be thought redundant; but to those who are inexperienced, and have yet their profession to learn, a work cannot be too explicit or instructive. There appeared but two modes of procedure on the present occasion; either silently to suffer a continuance of dreadful injuries to society; or to openly expose their evil tendency. The former would have been pusillanimous and iniquitous; the latter, therefore, has been adopted, in order to reform some of those serious abuses, that have been revived or forced into the art with more speciousness and rashness than truth.

The censures are not levelled against any particular practitioners; but formed on the broad basis of general and public utility. Medical men should live in the utmost harmony and esteem; and never feel offended for difference of opinion. Facts alone should decide, and sagely direct their practical conduct. An affection, a warm affection for the excellent art of surgery, and a sincere regard for its honour, prompted the absolute necessity of the pre-

* The art of surgery is not so barren of intelligence, if the ancient and many excellent moderns be examined, as some self-created surgeons have pronounced. This may be easily proved by only referring to the surgery of Hippocrates, Celsus, &c. Paré, Dionis, Heister, Sharp, Le Dran, &c. &c. As to medical education, the erudite BOERHAAVE'S *METHODUS DESCENDI MEDICINAM* may be studied, a work replete with solid learning, &c. &c. which no age has equalled. *SCHOLA MEDICINÆ* may be likewise consulted, as it contains the more recent discoveries abridged, &c. &c.

sent publication. Numerous practitioners, both in town and country, are well informed of the deleterious effects announced, and some may be found, more capable of treating these important subjects. Many, who vehemently condemn in private conversation the practices impeached, shrink from the ungrateful task of publicly exposing the direful consequences. Several have expressed an impatient desire to see the recited errors brought forth to public view, and, if possible, banished; yet they shift the **ONUS SCRIBENDI** on any shoulders except their own.—So let it be. It is more laudable to attempt to serve the public with moderate talents, than to suffer horrid misery to be inflicted on mankind, under the seducing appearance of the greatest benefits.

It would argue great apathy and negligence, after immense experience, joined to an ardent attachment to the art for above forty years, not to present all the fruits of constant industry and attentive inquiry. It will appear, on reflection, that I come not to destroy, but to save.

A serious and interesting duty is now fulfilled; a duty indispensably due to the public; to the profession; to humanity!

The most cogent reasons have been assigned, why astringent injections, powerful salivations, and caustic bougies should be banished for ever from the practice of surgery.

Those, who have been attached to the use of astringent injections, have been proved to be the ringleaders of the most terrible evils, either immediate or remote, that ever afflicted mankind. Relinquish, then, that favourite practice, that injurious prejudice: thus will urethral strictures daily be reduced in number, and, in time, be heard of no more!

As the evils of urethral strictures must occur so long as the effects of astringent injections, or other mal-practices continue; let not the cruel violent modes of burning the most susceptible parts of man be adopted for their removal *.

Let

* A distinguished nobleman was said to be perfectly cured by the burning caustic—pus, saries, and different coloured matter is daily voided with the urine, with additional callosities in most parts of the urethra.

Such are the pretended cures, many instances of which I have seen. A servant of the same nobleman lost his life by the caustic.—Whilst I am writing this, a clergyman is present, who unhappily had the caustic repeatedly applied,

Let not the age of ARCA GATHUS return again with redoubled fury ; that inexorable monster of a surgeon, who was banished Roine for barbarities, for the unheard-of barbarities of furiously running through the city, cutting and burning whomsoever his rapacious hands could seize on. Exclude savage ferocity from the art ; for he is the most excellent surgeon, who performs the greatest number of cures with the fewest cruel operations.

It may be expected that this work, however dictated by humanity, must produce private enemies, who will secretly whisper what they dare not openly avow. A man accustomed to the detraction of malevolence for public benefits has little to apprehend ; but mankind should be warned how they receive calumniating insinuations instead of truth. In this liberal science let not the proverb be applied, **FIGULUS FIGULUM ODIT, MEDICUS MEDICUM.** However events may happen, it can only be said, that, unless provoked, many additional proofs of the mischievous tendency of the censured doctrines shall ever be suppressed ; but if forced, by any defence of the practice, they shall appear in all their hideous colours.

May profound science, prudence, and humanity ever join hands in the most useful of arts ! May surgery and all the branches of medicine, under the guidance of reason, daily improve and flourish until time shall be no more !

applied, in the course of two or three years ; the original cause of his stricture was the application of astringent injections, when a youth at Eton. The use of caustic has rendered him truly miserable, who was but slightly so before.

A gentleman had a caustic lately applied to the urethra ; cold shiverings followed, and he died in a few hours !

THE END.

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